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Thirty-fourth Session, 1930

20th, 27th and 28th February, 1930

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GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency Colonel the Right Hon'ble Sir FRANCIS STANLEY JACKSON, P.C., G.C.I.E.

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3. Police.
4. Ecclesiastical.
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3. **Excluded Areas.**
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2. **Excise.**

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Mr. RAZAUR RAHMAN KHAN, B.L.

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BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Ahmed, Maulvi Shamsuddin. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Hassan. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Syed Nausher. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Altaf. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]

B

Baksh, Maulvi Syed Majid. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
Bal, Mr. Sarat Chandra. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerji, Mr. P. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bannerjee, Babu Jitendralal. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan, M.B.E. [Rangpur West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basir Uddin, Maulvi Mohammed. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]
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Bose, Mr. S. M. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bural, Babu Gokul Chand. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]

C

Cassells, Mr. A. (Nominated Official.)
Chatterjee, Mr. B. C., Bar.-at-Law. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Dr. Jogendra Chandra. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizur Rahman. (Nominated Non-official.)
Chaudhuri, Maulvi Ashrafuddin. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]
Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Absar. [Chittagong North (Muhammadan).]
Chowdhury, Haji Badi Ahmed. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]
Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani, B.L. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]
Clark, Mr. I. A. (Indian Mining Association.)
Cohen, Mr. D. J. (Nominated Non-official.)
Cooper, Mr. C. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

D

Dain, Mr. G. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Dash, Mr. A. J. (Nominated Official.)
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan [Calcutta Central (Non-Muhammadan).]

E

Easson, Mr. G. A. (Nominated Official.)
Eusufji, Maulvi Nur Rahman Khan. [Mymensingh South-West (Muhammadan).]

F

Faroqui, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. [Minister.] [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]
Faslullah, Maulvi Muhammad. [Noakhali West (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

G

Ganguli, Rai Sahib Susil Kumar. (Nominated official.)
Ghose, Dr. Amulya Ratan. [Howrah Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghosh, Mr. M. C. (Nominated Official.)
Ghosh, Rai Bahadur Shashanka Kumar, C.I.E. (Dacca University.)
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Gilchrist, Mr. R. N. (Nominated Official.)
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Gordon, Mr. A. D. (Indian Tea Association.)
Guha, Babu Profulla Kumar. [24-Parganas Municipal North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Guha, Mr. P. N. (Nominated Non-official.)
Gupta, Mr. J. N., C.I.E., M.B.E. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Gurner, Mr. C. W. (Nominated Official.)

H

Habibullah, Nawab Khwaja. [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
Hakim, Maulvi Abdul. [Mymensingh Central (Muhammadan).]
Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]
Hogg, Mr. G. P. (Nominated Official.)
Hoque, Kazi Emdadul. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]
Hosain, Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur. [Malda cum Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]

Hossain, Maulvi Muhammad. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazlul. [Noakhali East (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Hussain, Maulvi Latafat. (Nominated Non-official.)
Hutchings, Mr. R. H. (Nominated Official.)

I

Insch, Mr. J. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Kasem, Maulvi Abul. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]
*Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman, B.L. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

L

Laird, Mr. R. B. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Lal Muhammad, Haji. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Law, Mr. Surendra Nath. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Leslie, Mr. M. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

M

Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)
Maiti, Mr. R. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mallik, Mr. Mukunda Behari. (Nominated Non-official.)
Marr, the Hon'ble Mr. A., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
McCluskie, Mr. E. T. (Anglo-Indian.)
Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder, KT., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
Moberly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
Mukharji, Rai Bahadur Satish Chandra. [Hooghly Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]

N

Nag, Reverend B. A. (Nominated Non-official.)
Nandy, Maharaja Sris Chandra, of Kasimbazar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.I.E. [Minister.] [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]

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* Deputy President, Bengal Legislative Council.

O

Ordish, Mr. J. E. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]
Ormond, Mr. E. C. [Burdwan and Presidency (European).]

P

Poddar, Mr. Ananda Mohan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)
Poddar, Seth Hunuman Prosad. [Calcutta West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)

R

Raheem, Mr. A., C.I.E. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Maulvi Azizur. [Mymensingh North-West (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Mr. A. F. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
Raikat, Mr. Prosanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Maharaja Jagadish Nath, of Dinajpur. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, the Hon'ble Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. [Minister.] (Rajshahi Landholders.)
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C. (Nominated Non-official.)
*Ray Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath, of Santosh. (Dacca Landholders.)
Ray Chowdhury, Babu Satish Chandra. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Rose, Mr. G. F. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Rout, Babu Hoseni. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Satyendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh. [Burdwan South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. D. N., Bar-at-Law. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Saileswar Singh. [Burdwan North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar. (Presidency Landholders.)
Roy, Mr. Shanti Shekhareswar. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Rushforth, Mr. F. V. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

* President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

S

Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Sahana, Babu Satya Kinkar. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Samad, Maulvi Abdus. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Dr. Sir Nilratan, K.T., M.D. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Sir Jadunath, KT., C.I.E. (Nominated Non-official.)
Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mohan. (Nominated Non-official.)
Sen, Mr. J. M. (Expert, nominated.)
Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Skinner, Mr. S. A. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)
Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur. (Burdwan Landholders.)
Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Stapleton, Mr. H. E. (Nominated Official.)
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

T

Tate, Major General Godfrey, M.B., K.H.S., I.M.S. (Nominated Official.)
Thompson, Mr. W. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Travers, Mr. W. L., C.I.E., O.B.E. [Rajshahi (European).]
Twynam, Mr. H. J. (Nominated Official.)

W

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Thirty-fourth Session.)

Volume XXXIV—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE COUNCIL met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 20th February, 1930, at 2-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh), in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 88 nominated and elected members.

Oaths or affirmations.

The following members made an oath or affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown:—

Maharaja Sris Chandra Nandy, of Kasimbazar.

Mr. Alexander Douglas Gordon.

Obituary Reference.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Gentlemen: It is with great regret that I have to refer to the death of Mr. A. W. Cook, C.I.E., I.C.S., who was a nominated member of this Council in July and the early part of August, 1929. He held charge of important districts of Bengal, was subsequently a Commissioner and held the important post of Member

of the Board of Revenue from December, 1928, until the 14th instant the day of his death in Calcutta. He also rendered military duty in the Great War in 1918 and 1919 having been granted a Commission in the Indian Labour Corps for service overseas. For his valuable services and devotion to duty he was made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1917.

I am sure that members will desire that a message of their sympathy shall be conveyed to Mrs. Cook in her sad bereavement.

I will now ask members to endorse what I have said by kindly rising in their places.

(All the members then rose in their places.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you, gentlemen. The Secretary will please take the usual steps.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given.)

Hostel for Muhammadan girls of the Eden Girls' School, Dacca.

*52. **Nawab KHWAJA HABIBULLAH:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that there is no separate hostel accommodation for the Moslem girls studying in the Eden Girls' School, Dacca; and

(*ii*) that eight such girls are at present staying with the Hindu girls, to the inconvenience and disadvantage of both?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of having a separate hostel for the Muhammadan girls of the said school?

MINISTER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes, there are eight Moslem girls; they are living on quite friendly terms and no complaints have been received.

(*b*) No.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether making of provision for the accommodation of Moslem girls is at all the concern of the Education Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: Yes.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Government has not yet made any separate provision for hostel for the girls of the Moslem community?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: It is not required.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is sufficient accommodation in the existing hostel for all classes of pupils?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: Yes.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how many students is there accommodation in the hostel?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: I would ask for notice.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what should be the number which would necessitate the erection of a separate hostel for Moslem girls?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: It is difficult to tell what accommodation will be required for a new hostel now.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is: what number would induce Government to have a separate hostel for girls?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: It is difficult to answer. I am not prepared to answer it.

Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he does not consider that parents and guardians of Moslem girls would prefer to have their girls brought up in congenial surrounding according to the tastes of their community?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I am afraid this is a matter of opinion. You cannot ask for an expression of opinion.

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: I do not see any desirability of having separate hostel accommodation for Moslem girls.

Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not considering the desirability of having separate accommodation for Muhammadan girls?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: So far no proposals for separate accommodation for Muhammadan girls have been put before Government.

Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any desirability of a separate institution?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: It is a request for action.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any complaints have been received from either Hindus or Muhammadans against their accommodation in the same hostel?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: No.

Mr. P. N. GUHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is contemplating removal of the present Eden Hostel out of the congested side of Dacca?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: This does not arise. It is quite a separate subject which has nothing to do with this question.

Orders prohibiting the holding of meetings in certain places in Jessore.

*53. **Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Jessore has promulgated an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting thereby the holding of meetings in Bagherpara and Salikha police-stations and other places in the district of Jessore?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the orders were issued in connection with the Bandabilla Union Board boycott campaign?

(c) Is it a fact that a public meeting was held at Shimakhali in Salikha police-station on the 20th January, 1930, under the presidency of the Vice-Chairman of the Jessore District Board?

(d) Is it not a fact that the announcement was to the effect that it would be a religious meeting?

(e) Is it a fact that speakers from Calcutta, Head Maulvi of Benodepur High English School (Jessore), and other speakers of different places spoke on the utility of the Union Board?

(f) If the answers to (d) and (e) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the speeches were not in violation of the injunction under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code?

(g) If the answer to (f) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, the Government propose to take against the organisers and speakers of the said meeting?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (a) The District Magistrate, Jessore, promulgated an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, on the 28th December, 1929, prohibiting within the Kotwali, Kaliganj, Bagherpara and Salikha police-stations of that district, the holding of meetings with a view to carrying on a propaganda against union boards and to creating general disaffection against Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. Muhammadans only were invited and attended.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

(f) The speeches were not in violation of the order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code.

(g) Does not arise.

Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the exact order that was promulgated under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I am prepared to lay a copy of the order on the table.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the order was against the holding of meetings as such or the holding of meetings of a particular character?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I have already promised to lay a copy on the table.

Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the order was applicable only against the Hindus or to all?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I have already said that a copy of the order would be laid on the table. When this has been done, members will be able to read it.

Muslim and non-Muslim ministerial officers in the Chittagong Division.

***54. Khan Sahib Maulvi BAZLUL HUQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district in the Chittagong Division, the present number of—

(*i*) Moslem, and

(*ii*) non-Moslem

ministerial officers in each of the offices of—

(*i*) the District Magistrates and Collectors and their subordinate courts;

(*ii*) the District Judges and their subordinate courts;

(*iii*) the Superintendents of Police; and

(*iv*) the Commissioner of the Division?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table another statement showing the number of—

(*i*) Muhammadan, and

(*ii*) non-Muhammadan

appointments made during the last 3 years in the offices referred to in (*a*) together with the educational qualifications of the incumbents?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that there are many qualified Mussalman youths seeking employment as ministerial officers?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there is any Government order fixing the maximum and minimum number of seats for the Mussalman ministerial officers both in the permanent and temporary establishments?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the number and date of such orders?

(*f*) Is that order observed in all cases?

(*g*) If not, what action, if any, does the Government take for non-compliance with the orders?

(*h*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing an order for the observance of the orders without breach in future?

(*i*) Is it a fact that the Government have recently passed orders reserving 45 per cent. of the appointments in the Bengal Civil Service and other higher offices for Mussalmans?

(*j*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of reserving seats for ministerial officers and other appointments for Mussalmans either—

(*i*) in proportion to the population of each district; or

(*ii*) according to the standard fixed for Bengal Civil Service and other higher appointments?

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) and (*b*) Statements are laid on the table.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No maxima have been fixed. The minima have been shown in statement I so far as offices in the Chittagong Division are concerned.

(*e*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*f*) No case of non-observance has been reported.

(*g*) Does not arise.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) Yes.

(*j*) Government have at present no intention of revising the orders in force.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a), (b) and (d) of starred question No. 54.

STATEMENT I.

Statement showing the present number of Moslem and non-Moslem ministerial officers in certain offices in the Chittagong Division:—

Names of offices.	Total number of appointments.	Number of Moslem ministerial officers.	Number of non-Moslem ministerial officers.	Minimum percentages prescribed for Moslems.	Percentages of appointments held by Moslems.
Office of the Commissioner, Chittagong Division.	24	7	17	33⅓	29·1
Office of the District Magistrate, Chittagong, including the subordinate courts.	222	88	134	33⅓	39·6
Office of the District Magistrate, Tippera, including the subordinate courts.	112	40	72	33⅓	35·7
Office of the District Magistrate, Noakhali, including the subordinate courts.	78	34	44	33⅓	43·5
Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong Hill Tracts, including the subordinate courts.	25	4	21	4	16
Office of the District Judge, Chittagong, including the subordinate courts.	129	47	82	No percentage has been prescribed by Government as section 30 of the Civil Courts Act empowers the District Judges to exercise control over ministerial appointments in their offices. Copies of letters addressed to Commissioners have, however, been sent to the District Judges with an expression of hope that in making appointments in their offices, they will keep in view the principles which have been adopted by Government in the matter.	36·4
Office of the District Judge, Tippera, including the subordinate courts.	172	59	113		34·3
Office of the District Judge, Noakhali, including the subordinate courts.	110	40	70		36·3
Office of the Superintendent of Police, Chittagong.	8	3	5	33⅓	37·6
Office of the Superintendent of Police, Tippera.	10	4	6	33⅓	40
Office of the Superintendent of Police, Noakhali.	5	1	4	33⅓	20

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 54.

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing the number of Muhammadans and non-Muhammadans appointed in certain offices in the Chittagong Division during the years 1926-28 together with their educational qualifications:—

Names of offices.	Number of Muhammadans appointed during the years 1926-28 with their educational qualifications.	Number of non-Muhammadans appointed during the years 1926-28 with their educational qualifications.
1. Office of the Commissioner, Chittagong Division.	1 Matriculate 1 B. A. — 2	Nil.
2. Office of the District Magistrate, Chittagong, including the subordinate courts.	1 B. A. 10 Matriculates. 1 Non-Matriculate. — 12	1 I. A. 13 Matriculates. — 14
3. Office of the District Magistrate, Tippera, including the subordinate courts.	1 Non-Matriculate 2 Matriculates. 3 I. As. — 6	1 Non-Matriculate. 3 Matriculates. 2 I. As. — 6
4. Office of the District Magistrate, Noakhali, including the subordinate courts.	2 B. As. 1 I. A. 1 I. Sc. 2 Matriculates. — 6	1 I. A. 1 B. A. — 2
5. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong Hill Tracts, including the subordinate courts.	1 Non-Matriculate —	1 Matriculate. —
6. Office of the District Judge, Chittagong, including the subordinate courts.	4 Matriculates 3 I. As. — 7	4 Matriculates. 4 I. As. — 8
7. Office of the District Judge, Tippera, including the subordinate courts.	3 Non-Matriculates 8 Matriculates. 3 I. As. — 14	7 Matriculates. 3 B. As. 1 I. Sc. — 11
8. Office of the District Judge, Noakhali, including the subordinate courts.	2 Matriculates —	2 B. As. 1 Matriculate. 1 Non-Matriculate. — 4
9 Office of the Superintendent of Police, Chittagong.	1 Matriculate —	1 Passed I. A. (since resigned). 1 Matriculate — 2
10. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Tippera.	Nil	Nil.
11. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Noakhali.	*2 Matriculates —	Nil.

*Temporary.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (e) of starred question No. 54.

STATEMENT III.

Statement showing the numbers and dates of Government orders fixing the minimum number of seats for the Mussalman ministerial officers both in the permanent and temporary establishments under Government:—

(1) Letter Nos. 1984-1987 A.D., dated the 28th October, 1925, to the Commissioners of the Dacca, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Presidency Divisions.

(2) Letter No. 16775A., dated the 2nd January, 1926, to the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division.

(3) Letter No. 1276 A.D., dated the 11th June, 1926, to the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

(4) Memo. Nos. 20800-20813A., dated the 9th November, 1926, to the several departments of the Secretariat.

(5) Memo. Nos. 19196A.-19214A., dated the 7th November, 1929, to the Commissioners of Divisions, heads of departments, and certain departments of the Secretariat.

Chandana river.

*55. **Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to the scheme for the improvement of the river Chandana in the district of Faridpur?

(*b*) If so, what is the decision?

MEMBER in charge of IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim Ghuznavi): (*a*) The member is referred to the answer to starred question No. 37 asked by him at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 11th February, 1929. The alternative scheme referred to therein is now under investigation.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the Government expect to come to a decision on this question?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: I have nothing more to add to the answer.

Sessions Court arrangement for Bogra.

*58. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi HAFIZUR RAHMAN CHAUDHURI:** Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware—

(*i*) that the location of the District Judge at Pabna causes inconvenience in the presentation of motions from the decisions of 27 union courts established throughout the district of Bogra; and

(*ii*) that the inhabitants of Bogra have made repeated representations drawing the attention of Government to their inconvenience and hardship under the present arrangement of the Judicial administration in the sessions district Pabna *cum* Bogra?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*i*) It is probable that inconvenience is caused, but during the year 1929 only 7 applications under section 88 of the Village Self-Government Act from Bogra were filed before the District Judge. Pabna is about 10 hours' journey from Bogra.

(*ii*) Yes.

Agricultural training in rural areas.

*57. **Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to give effect to the scheme for imparting agricultural training to boys in the rural areas by getting agricultural classes opened in middle and high English schools, as contemplated in the order No. 4839-Edn., dated the 19th December, 1927, of the Ministry of Education?

(*b*) How many teachers have been deputed to take training at the Dacca Agricultural Farm and how many of them have already completed their training and are employed in schools with agricultural classes?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what will be the total amount necessary to train the full number of teachers to work out the scheme and what portion of the same has been provided for in the next year's budget?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many schools are expected to take advantage of the scheme and are prepared to open agricultural classes;

(*ii*) how many boys are likely to join these classes in course of the next five years; and

(*iii*) what will be the total expenditure and what portion of it will be contributed by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Teachers are being trained at the Agricultural Training School, Dacca, on the lines indicated in Government order No. 4839-Edn., dated the 19th December, 1927.

(*b*) The training class was opened in January, 1928. Fifteen teachers were deputed for training in January, 1928, 15 teachers in January, 1929, and 15 teachers in January, 1930: altogether 45. The training course extends for a period of two years. The first batch of 15 teachers have completed their training and will return to their respective schools this year where they will start agricultural classes within the current academic year.

(*c*) Rs. 1,78,793: Rs. 26,636.

(*d*) (*i*) 60.

(*ii*) 3,000.

(*iii*) Government will expend in all Rs. 3,02,975. It is not possible to estimate what non-Government expenditure will be.

Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he considers that 15 teachers annually are quite sufficient to meet the requirements of all the schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: This was decided by my predecessor.

Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to popularise this scheme or at least to make this scheme quite well known?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: Each year schools are selected and requested for nomination of teachers and it depends very much on the schools coming forward to agree to the provision of opening agricultural schools and providing land later on. Before we can take any more students there must be more schools ready and willing to provide land for these agricultural experiments.

Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government is aware that the existence of the scheme is not even known to the authorities of the schools in the mufassal?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: A circular is sent every year to all the schools.

Administration of Justice in Tangail.

*88. **Maulvi NUR RAHMAN KHAN EUSUFJI:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, year by year, for the last five years (up to December, 1929)—

(*i*) the total number of original civil suits of which the values were over Rs. 2,000 in the different civil courts of the Mymensingh Sadar;

(*ii*) the total number of such original civil suits that went from the Tangail subdivision alone;

(*iii*) the total number of such suits that went up to the Mymensingh District Court from the Munsifs' courts of Tangail on the ground of want of jurisdiction;

(*iv*) the total number of civil appeals preferred in the District Judge's Court;

(*v*) the total number of civil appeals from the Tangail subdivision alone;

(*vi*) the total number of the Sessions cases that came up for trial before the District and Sessions Judge, Additional District and Sessions Judges and Assistant Sessions Judges, of Mymensingh;

(*vii*) the total number of the Sessions cases that went there from the Tangail subdivision alone;

(*viii*) the total number of criminal appeals instituted in the courts at the Mymensingh Sadar; and

(*ix*) the total number of criminal appeals that belonged to the Tangail subdivision alone?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. 58.

Item No.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	Total.	
(i) ..	446	520	565	573	586	2,690	
(ii) ..	57	80	77	75	96	303	
(iii) ..	Cannot be ascertained.						
(iv) ..	1,805	2,145	1,923	2,039	1,707	9,619	
(v) ..	230	223	266	208	272	1,199	
(vi) ..	197	187	220	221	231	1,056	
(vii) ..	21	21	28	26	16	112	
(viii) ..	425	430	433	375	445	2,108	Appeals before the Sessions Court.
	266	246	374	343	212	1,541	Appeals before the Additional District Magistrate.
(ix) ..	72	106	103	73	86	430	Appeals before the Sessions Court.
	46	71	73	37	20	261	Appeals before the Additional District Magistrate.

2-45 p.m.

Maulvi NUR RAHMAN KHAN EUSUFJI: With reference to answer to item (*iii*) will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the figures wanted to my question will be available?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: The figures cannot be ascertained, because plaints are returned to plaintiffs when the court finds that suits are not within its jurisdiction. All plaints so returned are not filed before superior courts—many are compromised and in some cases the plaintiffs cannot find money for prosecuting the suits with higher court fees. Some of the plaints returned are filed again before superior courts with higher court fees but the number even of these cannot be ascertained without examination of all the records pending and disposed of in the superior courts for these years and even then the result of the examination will not be accurate.

Kapotakshi river.

***58. Maulvi JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department aware that the river Kapotakshi in the district of Jessore is about to be silted up?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that several steamers of the B. I. S. N. & Trading Company ply on that river from Jhinkargacha Ghat to Kapilmuni?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the said steamers cannot properly ply on account of shallowness of the river from Jhinkargacha to Bankra in the district of Jessore?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of excavating and widening the said river from Jhinkargacha to Bankra to improve the steamer route?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) No. Schemes for the improvement of the river were investigated by this Department and referred to the Collector of Jessore for action under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920. It is for the parties interested, if they desire the improvement of the river and are prepared to pay for it, to move the Collector under section 3 of the Act.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that there is still a scheme called the Tahirpur Scheme for the improvement of the river?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: Yes.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: May I know when the Government will take up the scheme?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: I am afraid it is not possible to answer a question like that. It can be taken up under the Sanitary Improvement Act.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that it can be taken up under the Canals Act?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: I have nothing more to add to my answer.

Maulvi SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: With reference to (*c*) will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government thinks it its duty to secure information?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: No, because it is not likely to serve any useful purpose.

Khasmahals in Khulna Sunderbans.

***80. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the period of lease of khasmahals in the Sunderbans especially those situated in the district of Khulna; and

(*ii*) the number of khasmahals and the area of the—

(1) cultivable khas lands, and

(2) khas char lands,

in the said district ready for settlement?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government intend to settle these lands with persons other than the zamindars and big land owners?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to settle these lands piecemeal with the—

(1) poor middle class bhadraloks, and

(2) cultivating classes,

on advantageous terms?

(*d*) Is there any prospect of any new settlement of the khasmahals in the Sunderbans area in 1930?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of inviting the attention of the public, by clearly stating the area, the locality and the terms of the lease?

MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*) (1) and (2) The member is referred to Appendix IX, pages 164-176 of the Khulna Settlement Report, a copy of which is laid on the library table, and Mr. Ascoli's history of the Sunderbans.

(*b*) There are no new khas lands for settlement in Khulna.

(*c*) (1) and (2) Do not arise.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Boundary between Dacca and Faridpur.

*61. **Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the course of the mail steamers' line in the river Padma is regarded as the boundary line between the districts of Faridpur and Dacca?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the following mauzas now under the police-station Rajabari, district Dacca, have been on the Faridpur side of the said boundary line for the last 4 years:—

(1) Mitter char,

(2) Adwa Manirabad,

(3) Boyarmara,

(4) Bir Maishan,

(5) Charmohan Sureswar,

(6) Dular char,

(7) Char Kachikata and others?

(*c*) If so, why have not these mauzas been transferred to the district of Faridpur?

(*d*) Does the Government intend to take any action in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) The main stream of the Padma is the boundary.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The Collector of Faridpur and the Subdivisional Officer, Munshiganj, have been asked to make the usual annual verification of the boundary. On receipt of their reports, necessary action will be taken.

Maulvi TAMIZUODIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the Collector of Faridpur and the Subdivisional Officer of Munshiganj were requested to make the usual verification?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I want notice of that question. I am not in a position to answer the question as I am not the Member in charge of the Department dealing with Jurisdiction.

Proposals for charitable dispensaries in certain areas of Jessore.

***62. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 103(*b*) at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 2nd April, 1929, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the four offers of substantial donation for the establishment of charitable dispensaries received by the District Board of Jessore from private parties which were under consideration of the board at that time have been accepted?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why all or any one of them have been rejected?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that all the areas which were meant to be served by the dispensaries are extremely unhealthy and suffer for want of medical aid?

MINISTER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray): (*a*) The four offers were as follows:—

		Rs.
(1) Jangalbadhal	...	10,000
(2) Jatrapur	...	10,000
(3) Goga	...	2,000
(4) Amritabazar	...	2,000

Offer No. (1) was subsequently increased to Rs. 15,000, viz., Rs. 5,000 for land and buildings, and Rs. 10,000 to be invested in Government securities, the interest to be utilised in incurring the recurring expenditure. This offer has since been accepted by the

District Board. Regarding (2) and (3) the board have passed resolutions asking the local people to state and guarantee their contributions towards the recurring charges. As for (4) the Amritabazar people themselves started a dispensary after the offer and have applied for a grant-in-aid which is still under the consideration of the board.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Medical facilities are as much in request in these parts as in the rest of Jessore district.

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to remind the District Board regarding their duties to Amritabazar?

The Hon'ble Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I beg to submit that it is not a proper question. It is a request for action.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The object of a question may be to press for action.

The Hon'ble Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I submit to your ruling. In that case I might say that the matter will be referred to the District Board.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table.)

Mistry staff of the Ahsanullah Engineering School, Dacca.

51. Rai Sahib REBATI MOHAN SARKER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state the rules for the appointment of the mistry staff of the Ahsanullah Engineering School, Dacca?

(*b*) Is it a fact that some junior members of the mistry staff of the said school have been made permanent in preference to some senior members of the same staff?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the grounds on which such confirmation has been made?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of a feeling of discontent amongst the senior mistry staff?

(*e*) What steps, if any, does the Government intend to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) There are no rules; appointments are made by the Governing Body.

(*b*) Six appointments are permanent and those who held these posts were confirmed after probationary service therein. The remainder of the staff (mostly senior to the above six) are employed in temporary posts.

(*c*) On the ground of satisfactory service rendered.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Proposals for the amelioration of the condition of service are under consideration.

Judicial and Executive functions.

52. Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have the Government taken or does it intend to take in order to give effect to the reforms and measures suggested by the Greaves Committee of 1921 and the Civil Justice Committee of 1924?

(*b*) Are the said reforms and suggestions considered by the Government to be impracticable?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member been drawn to an alternative scheme set forth in a pamphlet entitled "An Original Scheme and Practical Working Scheme of Reorganisation of the District Civil Service in India" (copies whereof have been supplied to the proper departments of the Government)?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the said alternative scheme offers a complete solution of the questions inquired into by the above Committees without entailing any extra expenditure upon the Government?

(*e*) Are the Government considering the desirability of having a discussion of this scheme in this Council?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) and (*b*) As explained in the reply given to starred question No. 12 on the 5th August, 1929, Government are unable to take any action at present in connection with the recommendations of the Greaves Committee of 1921.

The number of recommendations in the Civil Justice Committee's Report is about 275. Effect has been given to many of them and of the remainder some are still under the consideration of the Government of India and the High Court.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) No.

Babu Shibnath Mukherjee, a clerk of the Calcutta General Post Office.

53. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 10th January, 1930, Babu Shibnath Mukherjee, a clerk of the Calcutta General Post Office, was arrested and taken into custody by the police of Calcutta?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any official of the Calcutta General Post Office, gave any information to the police regarding the incident with which Shibnath Mukherjee was connected?

(*c*) If so, who was that official and what was the information given?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Shibnath was discharged on the 11th January? If so, why?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) In accordance with the rules of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, the Assistant Postmaster in charge of Money Order Department of the Calcutta General Post Office informed the police that a clerk of that Department, Shibnath Mukherjee, had failed to account for some money and requested that an officer might be sent to inquire into the matter.

(*d*) Yes, because the postal authorities informed the police that Shibnath Mukherjee's brother had made good the amount in question and that no prosecution need be undertaken.

Appointment of inhabitants of West Bengal and East Bengal in certain services.

54. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Appointment Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last 10 years the number of appointments made in the following services respectively by recruitment of inhabitants of West Bengal and East Bengal—

(*i*) the Provincial Executive Service (Senior and Subordinate);

(*ii*) the Judicial Service; and

(*iii*) the Police Service (above the rank of Inspectors)?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 54.

	East Bengal.	West Bengal
Bengal Civil Service (Executive)	... 65	47
Bengal Judicial Civil Service	... 176	100
Judicial Service	... 67	49
Police Service (above the rank of Inspectors)	... 11	7

Panchthupi Union Board.

55. Mr. ARUN CHANDRA SINGHA: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department been drawn to the fact that all the members of the Panchthupi Union Board in the Murshidabad district come from the one and same village Panchthupi?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the union is comprised of nineteen villages?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the President of the Board—

(*i*) is the zamindar of the village; and

(*ii*) wields all the power himself?

The Hon'ble Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the reply given to question No. 53 asked by Mr. S. C. Mukherjea at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 16th March, 1929.

(*c*) (*i*) He is one of several zamindars of the village.

(*ii*) No.

Gobra Nala flushing scheme in the district of Murshidabad.

56. Maulvi ABDUS SAMAD: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government (Public Health) Department be pleased to state how far the Gobra Nala flushing scheme in the district of Murshidabad has been conducive to the improvement of health in the areas concerned?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of laying on the table any statistical evidence showing the result effected by the scheme?

MINISTER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (PUBLIC HEALTH) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray): (*a*) Government are advised that it is too early to estimate the

results of this scheme on public health, as the works were completed and brought into operation only this year, water running through the channel from the 11th July to the 20th September. Since 1925 there has been an all round reduction of malaria, the spleen index of 38 villages in the basin coming down from 64·3 per cent. in 1925 to 40·8 per cent. in September, 1929; but as the work was only in operation three months before the end of this period, these variations cannot be attributed to its effect.

(*b*) Reference is invited to the reply to paragraph (*a*).

Maulvi ABDUS SAMAD: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that since the excavation of the Gobra Nala the whole Nala has been converted into numerous waterlogged areas thus making the villages by the side of the canal hotbeds of malaria?

The Hon'ble Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: That is not my information, Sir. If I am permitted to read out an extract from the inspection report I might remove the doubts of the hon'ble member.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think it is necessary

Process servers.

57. Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of process servers (peons) at present employed in the process serving establishment;

(*ii*) their scale of pay and pension;

(*iii*) their total pay in 1928-29;

(*iv*) the nature of their duties;

(*v*) the rules relating to their leave;

(*vi*) the average number of processes or writs served by each every year;

(*vii*) the amount realised as process fees; and

(*viii*) the balance left after paying the process servers?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware—

(*i*) that the process servers have often to do their work under unfavourable climatic conditions and are often victims of illness;

(*ii*) that no medical aid is provided for them; and

(*iii*) that they are often placed on guard and other work, not connected with their official duties?

(c) If the answer to (b) (iii) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of taking steps in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (a) (i) Approximately 4,909.

(ii) A few districts, viz., Calcutta, Howrah (Sadar), Alipore (Sadar) and Darjeeling are classified as "A" districts because living, including accommodation, is distinctly dearer than elsewhere; all other districts are "B" districts. Process servers are paid according to the following time scales:—in "A" districts, Rs. 18—1/5—22; in "B" districts, Rs. 16—1/5—20. Process servers are eligible for pension under the ordinary rules applicable to inferior service.

(iii) Rs. 10,74,508.

(iv) The duty is mainly to serve processes, but while waiting their turn at headquarters they may be used for miscellaneous work about the court.

(v) They enjoy leave according to the provisions of S. Rules applicable to inferior service.

(vi) The average number of processes to be served in a year is fixed by rules framed by the High Court (*vide* Rule 13, Chapter XII, High Court Circular, Volume I, page 303).

(vii) In 1928 Rs. 25,68,749 for Civil Court processes.

(viii) The balance left after paying the process servers and the supervising staff was approximately Rs. 12,92,000.

(b) (i) It is the condition of service that they have to work in mufassal, but experience shows that they keep fit even after attaining the age of 60.

(ii) There are no special rules about medical aid.

(iii) The service of processes does not occupy their whole time and they are utilised for guard and other miscellaneous duties while at headquarters.

(c) The question will be examined after the number of process servers is reduced, and further reduction is possible as the processes on witnesses are being served by parties. The difficulty is however that Government is entitled to whole-time service from whole-time servants and it would hardly be justifiable to pay them for a whole month and only utilise them for 20 days or so.

Irrigation facilities.

58. Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department been drawn to the recommendations of the Royal Agricultural Commission as regards the great importance and need for irrigation facilities in West and Central Bengal and also as regards early provision for such facilities?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to raise sufficient loan to provide the necessary funds for the re-excavation of the dead water channels and silted up tanks and for construction of regulators and distributaries at Government expense or by advancing loans at easy rates of interest to those raiyats and their organisations who would undertake to re-excavate and construct such channels, etc.?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Loans are admissible for approved schemes of this kind, the rate of interest varying from 5¾ to 6¼ per cent. They may be Land Improvement Loans: or loans under the Co-operative Societies Act: or loans to local authorities for schemes under the Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act of 1920. The extent to which loans may be granted by Government from its own funds or from advances from the Provincial Loans Fund depends on the nature and cost of the schemes and the financial position of Government.

Apportionment of costs under Bengal Act II of 1882.

58. Mr. SARAT KUMAR RAY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in apportionment under the Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882 the costs incurred are apportioned between the zamindars and tenure-holders only, and that for no portion of the costs so incurred the raiyats are made liable?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government have any intention of amending the Act so as to apportion the liability on the raiyats as well?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

Certain irrigation difficulties in Burdwan and Hooghly.

59. Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have the Government decided to take in order to remove the grievances represented by the deputation which had waited on the late Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, the then Irrigation Member, on the 18th of March, 1929, on behalf of the Bengal Krishak Raiyat Sava?

(*b*) Is it not a fact that the deputation assured the Hon'ble Member that the raiyats of the villages on both sides of the Kananadi and Kana-Damodar likely to be benefited by the regulators suggested by the members of the deputation at Khanpur-Narayanpur, Balligari, Duttapur, Deulpara-Kabilpur, Ajodhya-Kashipur and Bandipur, in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly, are prepared to find the capital expenditure for the construction of the said regulators by forming Co-operative Irrigation Societies, provided they are granted proper rebate of the water taxes?

(*c*) Have the Government considered these proposals?

(*d*) If so, what is their decision?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that even in years of drought as in 1925 and 1927 raiyats were refused permission to take water to save crops by putting *kuncha bunds* on acquired water channels at their own expense?

The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir ABDELKERIM GHUZNAVI: (*a*) The action taken was communicated to the Organising Secretary, Bangiya Krishak O Raiyat Sava, and a copy of the communication is laid on the table.

(*b*) Yes, construction in this way of regulators at all the places mentioned with the exception of Duttapur was suggested by the deputation.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) A new regulator at Khanpur across the Kananadi is not considered necessary as it would be better and cheaper to make distributaries from the existing regulator at Goralmuri for the purpose of irrigating the areas on both the banks. A project for a regulator across the Kana-Damodar at Balligari is under preparation. There are already proposals with Government for the construction of two regulators across the Kana-Damodar—one at Krishnagar and the other at Mirzapore near Tarakeswar. The construction of more regulators on these two rivers will depend upon what water is available when the Damodar Canal is completed, as without an assured supply at the time required it is no use building additional regulators.

No case of a regulator paid for by the parties interested forming themselves into co-operative societies has yet arisen. If any such case arises it should be referred to Government when the question of rebate in water-rate will be considered.

(*e*) Permission was refused to raiyats who are not lease-holders for the purpose of taking water in the interests of the lease-holders.

Copy of the communication referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 60.

No. 8119-I., dated Calcutta, the 12th November, 1929.

From—H. J. TWYNAM, ESQ., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Irrigation Department,

To—The Organising Secretary, Bangiya Krishak O Raiyat Sava, No. 15, College Square, Calcutta.

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter dated the 2nd September, 1929, regarding the deputation which waited on the 18th March last on the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department to represent certain irrigation difficulties in the districts of Hooghly, Burdwan and Birbhum. I am now to communicate the following observations on the various points raised by the deputation:—

(1) *Drainage of a water-logged area in the district of Hooghly.*—This area lies to the west of Chandernagore and is drained by the Kunti and the Saraswati rivers. The Chief Engineer has since made a personal inspection of the channels and has discussed the matter with the local people. He is inclined to the view that the correct solution would be to improve the river Saraswati so as to carry off the surplus water. Observations are now being taken with a view to drawing up a definite scheme and the result of these observations will be awaited.

(2) *Introduction of water from the Damodar into the Ghea.*—Government are advised that the proposal, as put forward by the deputation for building a new sluice on the bank of the Damodar for supplying water to the Ghea, is not a practicable one. A better plan will probably be to supply the Ghea direct from the Eden Canal the supply in which will be assured as soon as the Damodar Canal is opened. The question will be further examined after the Damodar Canal is opened.

(3) *New sluices on the bank of the Damodar.*—The proposal for a sluice at Dhapdhara will be further investigated. The correct procedure is for those who want these new sluices to apply under section 18 of the Embankment Act, when each case will be examined on its merits. The floors of existing sluices cannot be lowered as suggested. There are very few sluices on the Damodar and it is feared that an attempt to lower the level of a sluice is likely to bring about a collapse of the whole structure.

(4) *New regulators on the minor rivers.*—As to the suggestion for the construction of a new regulator at Khanpur across the Kananadi, Government are advised that it would be better to make distributaries from the existing regulator across this river at Goralmuri for the purpose of irrigating the areas on both the banks. This arrangement would be more economical and would serve the purpose equally well.

(5) *Drainage channel to mitigate the effects of floods in the river Ajay.*—The proposal for excavating a channel on the right bank of the Ajay is under investigation and a survey has been sanctioned.

(6) *Reduction, rebate or remission of water-rates.*—It was pointed out on behalf of Government, and was, in fact, recognised at the time of discussion by those who led the deputation, that it is not possible to make any reduction in the water-rates in view of the fact that none of the irrigation canals pay their way. Further, as most of the rivers which traverse the area served by the Eden Canal form part and parcel of that canal system and have been declared under the Irrigation Act, riparian tenants cannot be allowed to use the water of these rivers for irrigation without payment. But if water is available, it is never withheld from those who have taken leases.

In regard to the question of rebate in water-rates to be granted when a bund or regulator is erected by private parties, Government are not aware of any case of a *pucca* regulator having been paid for in this way. If such a case arises, the question of granting some concession will be considered.

In regard to channels excavated by private persons the Irrigation Act, 1876, already covers such cases: Part V of the Act makes provision for the registration of owners of such channels who are entitled to take a certain rate for every bigha irrigated by these channels. The policy of Government is to encourage the construction of village channels by private persons.

2. It will be seen that the various points taken by the deputation have engaged the attention of the Irrigation Department. Government do not think that any useful purpose will be served by calling a conference now as suggested.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

Government Bill.

The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1930.

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1930. The report is in the hands of the members and it will be seen that it is an unanimous report.

I beg to move that the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1930, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

Maulvi NUR RAHMAN KHAN EUSUPJI: Sir, since coming to the Council I had an interview with the Hon'ble Member. After that I do not like to move my amendment.

The following amendment was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn:—

Maulvi NUR RAHMAN KHAN EUSUFJI to move that clause 2 (*a*) be omitted.

Mr. P. BANERJI: I beg to move that in clause 2 (*b*) in section 1 (*3*) (*iii*) for the proposed proviso the following proviso be substituted, namely:—

"Provided that notwithstanding any notification under this clause, this Act shall operate in respect of all agricultural lands situated within the area specified in such notification."

Sir, in moving this amendment I want to be assured that all the agricultural lands wherever they may be situated shall be subject to the operations of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I can give him that assurance.

Mr. P. BANERJI: In that case I do not like to press my motion.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not understand what the member really means. The amendment is there. It must either be moved or withdrawn. I do not want him to create complications.

Mr. P. BANERJI: I do withdraw the motion.

The motion of Mr. P. Banerji was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 5.

The following motion was called but not moved:—

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY to move that for clause 5 (*b*) the following be substituted, namely:—

"(*b*) in the third proviso for the words 'in this section' the words 'in clause (*d*) and clause (*e*) of this section' shall be substituted."

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 10.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clauses 6 to 10 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 11.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: I beg to move that for clause 11 (*2*) the following be substituted, namely:—

"(*2*) in clause (*ff*) after the words 'rate of rent' the words 'when he has been holding at such fixed rent or rate of rent from the time of the Permanent Settlement' shall be inserted."

Sir, I beg to ask this House to accept the original draft of the Bill. My reasons are as follows: It seems to me that a bit of inconsistency has entered into the Select Committee's report. My grounds are as follows: That this section 160 of the Bengal Tenancy Act is, as a matter of fact, based on the provisions of the Revenue Sale Law. In the Revenue Sale Law certain interests were provided for as being protected.

3 p.m.

Section 37 of the Revenue Sale Law makes only *mukarrari* rents which have been paid from the time of the Permanent Settlement "protected." This important restriction, namely, "from the time of the Permanent Settlement" was omitted from clause (*ff*) of the

amending Act, which made the clause imperfect, defective and liable to misconstruction in many respects. The mover of the present amending Bill, therefore, did well to seek to remedy the defect by originally inserting the all-important words "from the time of the Permanent Settlement." The Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee has done away with that healthy restriction and in place of that "rents which have not been changed during twenty years" have been substituted. This idea about twenty years, it seems to me, was imbibed from section 50 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. I think it is all due to a confusion of ideas. The underlying idea of section 37 of the Revenue Sale Law is to avoid all creations of subordinate interests by lessees from the Government except some very well recognised ones, such as the interests of occupancy raiyats. Raiyats at fixed rents are practically middlemen above the occupancy raiyats, and the creations of such middlemen interests were discouraged by making them null and void against revenue sale unless they were existing from the time of the Permanent Settlement, in which case their interests would be known to the Government as well as to their lessees who must, therefore, be bound to recognise them. These, therefore, deserved protection and they were so protected by section 37 of the Revenue Sale Law. In copying this provision for the Bengal Tenancy Act it might, therefore, be expected that the whole thing should be copied. But we find to our regret, that the idea about twenty years has been taken from section 50 of the Bengal Tenancy Act and grafted on to this. But neither that section nor the idea underlying that section has any applicability to the present case. That section only raises a presumption that when a tenure-holder or raiyat and his predecessors have paid the same rent for twenty years it shall be presumed that they did so from the time of the Permanent Settlement *until the contrary is shown*. It will be seen that section 50 applies equally to *tenure-holders* and *raiyats* and not to raiyats at fixed rates, and secondly, that it is only a presumption which may be rebutted. So it is obvious that those who suggested the change in clause 11(2) of the present Bill were led to do so by a clear confusion of ideas.

The Hon'ble Member will be pleased to note that if the Select Committee's report is allowed to stand it will make the law inconsistent. Section 4 of the Bengal Tenancy Act defines raiyats at fixed rates as raiyats holding at rates *fixed in perpetuity* but here by the amendment you practically say that raiyats paying the same rates for twenty years will have his rent fixed for ever or in the alternative the clause will mean—"a raiyat who has his rent fixed in perpetuity will not be liable to a change in the rent if he has paid for twenty years at the same rate"—the inconsistency being obvious. I think, Sir, in legislating here we should not lay ourselves open to the charge of inconsistency and want of foresight and of [illegible]

Then again mark the practical result if the Select Committee's report is accepted. It will pave the way for depriving the holders of the superior interests of their just dues by encouraging the lessees who are middlemen to enter into questionable transactions of all kinds. For example, the lessee from the zamindars for making a profit for himself takes a large amount of salami and creates proof of payment of rent for twenty years and then allows his leasehold to be sold for the accumulated rent of years during which he did not pay. The landlord of the leaseholder is thus compelled to purchase a deteriorated property of which there will be found no buyer at the proper price. It may open up the way for benami transactions also in favour of the leaseholder's relations which will thus become protected against rent sales.

I should not be understood as speaking against the actual raiyats—I mean the cultivators of the soil who deserve all the protection from us. The rights of these people who are mostly occupancy raiyats are already protected. But I should be excused if I bear no excessive love for the middlemen—the so-called raiyats at fixed rates—who both suck the actual cultivators and at the same time cheat their benefactors, the zamindars. I, therefore, appeal both to the Hon'ble Member-in-charge to accept my amendment and to the advocates of the cultivators not to oppose my amendment.

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I regret very much that I cannot accept this amendment and I shall presently explain the reason why I cannot accept it. Babu Satish Chandra Ray Chowdhury has pointed out that he is moving an amendment to include what was in our own Bill. That is true but this amendment which forms part of the Select Committee's report, namely, in clause (*ff*) after the words "rate of rent" the words "fixed rate or rate of rent which has not changed for twenty years" be substituted. This is the unanimous recommendation of the Select Committee and representatives of both raiyats and landlords are parties to that recommendation and Government also. Apart from other reasons we cannot go back to what we have agreed to but I would like the House to consider the substance of the question. In doing so I would remind the House of the history of this very shortly.

In the original Bill there was no such provision. As a result of an amendment moved so far as I remember by Babu Jogindra Chandra Chakraburtty the provision as embodied in clause (*ff*) of section 160 of the Act was included, namely, the right of a raiyat at a fixed rate to hold it at fixed rent or rate of rent. Government as also other members opposed that but with the vote of the Swarajist members and others that amendment was passed. It was pointed out to me by various people that the result of this would be that it would be

possible to commit great frauds on the landlords primarily and also perhaps on the raiyats secondarily. It would be possible sometime before an impending rent-decree or rent sale for an unscrupulous landlord to receive, say Rs. 500, and reduce the rent from say Rs. 100 to Rs. 5, which would be very injurious to the auction-purchaser. The result was that we put forward an amendment which Babu Satish Chandra Ray Chowdhury has again brought forward but the main reason why we put forward that amendment was that a fraud can be committed before the property was going to be sold. The reason why Government was prepared to accept the recommendation as embodied in the Select Committee's report—and landlords in spite of some protest also accepted that—was that it was pointed out by tenants' representatives that although they were quite willing to act fairly with regard to the interests of landlords yet if a particular person was paying at the same rate of rent for twenty years there could be no question of committing fraud just before the sale or even a short time before the sale.

3-15 p.m.

The revenue history is perfectly well known, and if we look at the revenue history of the question, we find that the arguments of Babu Satish Chandra Ray Chowdhury are sound, but we are concerned more with the question of substance. If a particular raiyat is paying at the same rate for twenty years, there is no question of fraud. If he is an occupancy raiyat, he is already protected by the previous sub-clause, viz., clause (*f*). If he is a tenure holder, as Babu Satish Chandra Ray Chowdhury apprehends, then I would point out that a tenure holder cannot be a raiyat at fixed rent or rate of rent. Therefore, what will be the difference? The difference will be that an occupancy raiyat who has been paying at the same rate for twenty years will not have his rent enhanced. From the point of view of justice and policy, if he is an actual agriculturist, no landlord should mind this very much, although as a question of right he has a right to question it. As it was frankly a compromise, I hope the mover of the amendment will understand that no question except the question of justice and compromise was involved, and will see his way to withdraw his amendment.

I oppose the amendment.

The motion of Babu Satish Chandra Ray Chowdhury was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 11 stand part of Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clauses 12 and 13.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clauses 12 and 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 14.

The following amendments were called but not moved:—

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI to move that in clause 14 in the proposed section 195A, lines 3 and 4, the words "or against any officer of the Government" be omitted.

Mr. P. BANERJI to move that in clause 14 in proposed section 195A, lines 4 and 5, after the words "anything done" the words "bona fide and in the course of the ordinary discharge of his duties" be inserted.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 14 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clauses 15 and 16.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clauses 15 and 16 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Preamble.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The question is that the preamble stand part of the Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I beg to move that the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1930, as settled in Council, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1930-31.

MEMBER in charge of FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): It is my privilege once more to present to the Council this budget estimates of the Government of Bengal. They are accompanied as before by the financial statement which explains the detailed budget heads and gives information in convenient form relating to new works and works in progress as well as expenditure in England. It is hoped that these explanations will meet the requirements of members for the budget discussion and the voting of grants, but if any further information is required by any member on any particular item, I renew the assurance I have given in previous years for myself and on behalf of every member of Government, that we shall be glad to give any member whatever help we can.

To take up the previous year first 1928-29. We expected to begin the current year with a balance of Rs. 2,00,90,000. The final accounts of 1928-29 show that our balance was over Rs. 22 lakhs better than this amount. Revenue was Rs. 7¼ lakhs over the revised estimate, thanks mainly to improved land revenue receipts, whereas expenditure fell short by about Rs. 14¾ lakhs, these savings being distributed over several heads.

We now come to the current year 1929-30. The total receipts during this year were estimated at Rs. 12,20,88,000, including Rs. 55,25,000 on capital account, but it is now quite clear that we shall not receive as much as this. The loans to be taken from the Government of India will be reduced by Rs. 8 lakhs, as the amount originally estimated will not be required for expenditure this year on the Damodar Canal and other projects which are being carried out from borrowed funds. The noteworthy decline, however, is in the revenue account, where receipts are likely to fall by over Rs. 18 lakhs. Land Revenue and Excise are somewhat better, but against this we have to accept a decline of Rs. 19 lakhs under Stamps and Rs. 8 lakhs under Registration. The common factor affecting both these heads is the amended Bengal Tenancy Act. It is apparent that in almost every district fewer documents are being executed and registered in respect of property, especially in land, with a consequent fall in the revenue from general stamps and registration fees. Dull trade conditions have also influenced the decrease, but the main underlying cause is the Tenancy Act. The position is being carefully watched by the Revenue authorities who administer the Act and I will only add that it is hoped that this effect on revenue will be temporary.

On the expenditure side, estimates will not be fully worked up to; the difference is likely to be about Rs. 41 lakhs. About Rs. 5 lakhs of this come under capital works of the Irrigation and Public Works

Departments, but the bulk of it is on the revenue account. The unspent amounts are likely to be largest under General Administration (over Rs. 12 lakhs) and Registration (nearly Rs. 5 lakhs), while Civil Works, Medical, Police and Administration of Justice account for most of the balance. Under General Administration, the salaries of Ministers for most of the year were not drawn, but the main saving under the first two heads is to be attributed to the factor already mentioned, viz., the Bengal Tenancy Act. It will be recollected by members of this House that a provision of Rs. 15½ lakhs was made for expenditure on staff and contingencies expected to be incurred in Collectorates and Sub-Registry Offices for the transmission of landlords' fees. Receipts of a similar amount were expected, the costs being paid to Government in the form of court-fee stamps. I stated last year that these amounts were rough estimates, liable to modification in the light of the actual working of the Act. The provisions of the Act have not been made use of to the extent anticipated by the departments and the bulk of the funds provided for this purpose will not be expended this year.

To sum up this year's position, the revised estimate of revenue receipts is Rs. 11,47,46,000 as against an expenditure of Rs. 11,43,56,000 on revenue account. These figures nearly balance, the anticipated result being somewhat in favour of revenue, but it has to be remembered that that revenue includes an abnormal item of over Rs. 52 lakhs. Under the capital heads, expenditure is over Rs. 76 lakhs against receipts amounting to Rs. 45¾ lakhs. Thus, beginning the year with an opening balance of Rs. 2,23,09,000, we expect to end with a balance of Rs. 1,96,27,000. I may remind the House that this includes two earmarked funds, viz., Rs. 12½ lakhs of the Famine Relief Fund and Rs. 2¾ lakhs of the Press Depreciation Fund.

Now let me indicate briefly the financial arrangements contemplated next year. Receipts from revenue are placed at Rs. 11,04,54,000 against expenditure of Rs. 11,76,54,000, and a capital expenditure of Rs. 84,03,000 is proposed against receipts on capital account of Rs. 76,76,000. The net result is that the closing balance is expected to be reduced by Rs. 79¼ lakhs to Rs. 1,17,00,000. This drawal from our balances is required to meet the revenue deficit and certain new expenditure which I shall mention presently. The continuing revenue deficit is the most important aspect of the whole budget. As I have already stated, the revised receipts and expenditure on revenue account this year nearly balance, thanks to the windfall of Rs. 52 lakhs, but next year our revenue is expected to be nearly Rs. 43 lakhs less than this year's revised figure, whereas inevitable and unavoidable expenditure has increased. For this reason and also in view of our future commitments, we are still forced to limit ourselves to those new recurring liabilities which are unavoidable as a

result of administrative arrangements or policies or which conserve or increase revenue. The estimates for next year, therefore, provide only Rs. 2,21,000 for new schemes of a recurring nature, the ultimate liability for which amounts to Rs. 3,72,000.

3-30 p.m.

Our balances, however, permit us to make some advance with schemes which do not carry recurring liabilities and we have decided to allot Rs. 42,60,000 of ultimate expenditure for this purpose. Of this sum, Rs. 34,00,000 are expected to be spent in the coming year. These new schemes are all noted in the financial statement under the several budget heads and I shall have occasion to mention the more important of these presently.

But first I wish to refer to next year's estimate of receipts. It is hoped that the fall under General Stamps and Registration will be checked next year as people become more familiar with the provisions of the amended Bengal Tenancy Act, and in that belief an increase in revenue has been allowed for. A small increase of Rs. 2 lakhs is expected in the revenue from Government estates. The Excise revenue is likely to be much the same as in the present year, but a fall of Rs. 3½ lakhs under Forests has to be anticipated, as in some divisions extraction of timber will be restricted in accordance with the working plans for the development and conservation of the forests. Variations under other heads do not call for any comment.

In the loans portion of the budget, the main feature to be noticed is that we are borrowing Rs. 50 lakhs from the Government of India for the Council Chamber and the Bally Bridge roadways, both of which schemes are expected to be completed next year, as well as for continuing the construction of the Damodar Canal.

On the expenditure side the estimates provide for ordinary growth, for continuing schemes already initiated and for the new expenditure to which I have referred. Full information is given under the several heads in the financial statement and I now propose to indicate only the more important features.

The proposed expenditure on Land Revenue is Rs. 2½ lakhs higher and includes a sum of Rs. 3,27,000 for agricultural and sanitary improvements in Government estates; Rs. 2,33,000 for continuing colonization work in the Sunderbans and what is necessary for survey and settlement operations in several districts. A settlement record room will be built at Malda and provision for this is made under the Civil Works budget head.

Though our revenue from Forests is not immediately increasing, a substantial increase in forest expenditure has been found to be necessary, if we are to preserve the forests as a valuable asset for

Government. We have provided money for an electric crane at the Siliguri Depôt to secure the economic handling of logs and also money for improving a forest road in Darjeeling, but the most important item relates to the management of the Sunderban forests. The present method of exploitation there has been found to be wasteful, and in order to ensure proper control and conservation of these forests, it is proposed to introduce a new method of administration by substituting regular ranges for revenue stations. The total estimated cost for this is Rs. 83,800 capital expenditure and about Rs. 55,000 ultimate recurring expenditure, most of which will be incurred next year.

Prominent in the Irrigation budget will be found the estimated expenditure on bridges. Provision has been made next year for the Government share of the cost of the reconstruction of the Narkeldanga, Maniktolla and Belliaghata bridges. Government have agreed to bear 50 per cent. instead of 45 per cent. of the cost of these bridges and also of the Chitpur, Alipore and Tollyganj bridges, the estimated extra liability amounting to Rs. 1,46,000. Funds have been provided to finish the new Alipore bridge and to begin the reconstruction of the Chitpur and Ultadanga bridges; to carry on the improvement of the Lower Kumar River and Madaripur Bil route, the Serajganj protection scheme and for various minor works mentioned under the Irrigation heads in the financial statement.

The General Administration budget is about Rs. 5½ lakhs more than the revised estimate of this year, as it includes provision for three Ministers for the whole year and makes allowance for some expansion in the work of landlords' fee transmission and in local fund audit. In the part of the Civil Works budget relating to this head we have provided Rs. 3,72,000 for the purchase of 5 and 6, Government Place, from the Government of India, a building for which up to now we have been paying rent and which the Government of India decided to sell.

The grant required for the administration of justice is much the same as this year's sanctioned grant, and the only important item to be noticed is the appointment of an additional Presidency Magistrate to preside over the Central Children Court and to supervise probation work in regard to juvenile offenders. The House of Detention at Howrah has been closed, and it is hoped that with the centralisation of work in Calcutta under a whole-time officer, the problem of juvenile delinquency will be tackled more successfully. It is proposed to construct a passenger lift costing Rs. 17,000 in the Calcutta High Court and to extend the civil court buildings at Dacca at an ultimate cost of over Rs. 1,55,000.

In the Jails Department outside the amount required for the normal administration, we are increasing the staff of the Borstal

Institution in order to improve the training given there and have decided to adopt permanently a scheme for primary education in Alipore Jail which has been tried experimentally for some time. Provision has also been made to the extent possible for improvements in jail buildings and accommodation. The sub-jails at Satkhira and Jhenida will be extended and the Inspector-General's minor works grant has been increased to enable him to carry out small improvements in various jails.

Under the head Police, charges are estimated to be about Rs. 5 lakhs above this year's revised estimate; the increase is under the district executive force and is mainly the natural effect of better recruitment following on the better terms given last year to all the subordinate ranks. It has also been necessary to provide funds for the replacement of muskets, which have been condemned by the Army authorities as unserviceable, by better weapons both in the Calcutta and Bengal Police. The re-arming process will be spread over 3 years. The provision for Presidency Police has decreased on the whole, though it includes Rs. 12,000 for retaining permanently some extra staff in the Motor Vehicles Department. Registration and other work in regard to motor vehicles has increased considerably, and in return for the fees paid by the public, it is necessary to provide a staff sufficient to deal with the work promptly. In the police section of the Civil Works budget the only noteworthy item is the sum of Rs. 2,23,000 to be paid to the Government of India for the lands and buildings occupied by the Eastern Frontier Rifles at Dacca. This is Cantonment property which the local Government were allowed to occupy some years ago and has now to be bought from the Government of India.

Under Ports and Pilotage the only point that need be mentioned is the provision for additional surveying staff. At present certain classes of inland steam and motor vessels are exempted from survey and are under no obligation to carry life-saving apparatus. The intention is to abolish the exemption so as to bring these vessels under survey. The fees charged will probably cover all the extra expenditure.

Expenditure on education on the transferred side has been steadily increasing. From a sum of Rs. 97,94,000 in 1920-21, it has risen to Rs. 1,30,56,000 as estimated this year and next year's estimate has been put at Rs. 4 lakhs higher still. The grants for University education include one of Rs. 57,000 for Calcutta University to meet a contingent liability, as explained on the occasion of the recent supplementary demand this year. Funds have also been provided for the completion and furnishing of the Moslem Hall in Dacca University, and for the improvement of the sewerage scheme of the same University.

The new capital grants which it is proposed to give to various secondary and primary schools will be found on pages 68 and 69 of the financial statement. Other items which may be noted are a grant of Rs. 16,000 to the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad towards the construction of a museum estimated to cost Rs. 76,000 in all and Rs. 34,000 for re-wiring the defective electric installation in the Engineering College at Sibpur.

3-45 p.m.

To secure the affiliation of the Rajshahi College in Botany up to the I. Sc. standard, extra staff and apparatus are being provided and an additional chemistry laboratory is to be equipped for the intermediate students of that college. At the same time it is intended to raise the fees of all the science classes in that college up to the level of other mufassal colleges. Rajshahi is also to have a new building to accommodate the pupils of the Madrasah which has now been raised to the senior standard. Other buildings to be erected to meet educational needs include a hostel and a hall for the Teachers' Training College, Dacca. Physical culture in schools has come into great prominence in recent years and last year we provided Rs. 25,000 for grants to non-Government schools for the promotion of this object. We have provided Rs. 47,000 next year for the same purpose and have also allotted funds for the medical examination and supervision of school boys. This scheme will be introduced in the first place in Government high schools and senior madrasahs, the services of local doctors on allowances being utilised. A small fee to be imposed is expected to cover the expenditure, which comes partly in the Education budget and partly under Public Health.

On the reserved side of Education I may mention the grants-in-aid to be given to several schools, e.g., to Loreto Convent, Entally; to St. Thomas' School for a building for their kindergarten classes; to the Jewish Girls' School-towards a new building; and to Kalimpong Girls' School for building extension.

And lastly I may mention here the capital grants classified under the head 47—Miscellaneous, which it is proposed to make to the Calcutta and Dacca Muhammadan Orphanages.

The Medical budget and the medical portion of the Civil Works budget show how effect is being given to the policy of establishing medical schools. Improvements are being carried out at the Ronaldshay Medical School in Burdwan, and the construction of the medical schools at Jalpaiguri, Chittagong and Barisal is progressing. Jalpaiguri Medical School is expected to be ready to receive students from July next and provision has been made accordingly in the budget. The second instalment of Rs. 1,50,000 out of a total grant of Rs. 4 lakhs for the National Medical Institute is due to be paid next year. Local efforts to improve mufassal hospitals have been recognised by

the grants of Rs. 1 lakh to the Victoria Hospital in Darjeeling, and Rs. 70,000 to the Comilla Hospital towards the construction of buildings. Provision has been made also for the completion of nurses' quarters at the Gobra Leper Hospital, for grants to two Leper Homes at Raniganj and Bankura, and, in the Public Health budget, for the completion of a tube-well at Salboni, the site of a projected institution for lepers.

Now I come to Public Health. One of the most important measures promoted by Government in recent years is the establishment of a public health organisation in rural areas through the medium of district boards who receive grants for this purpose. These public health circles, each under a sanitary officer, have been opened throughout the greater part of the province, and the annual grant is being increased by Rs. 3 lakhs to a total of Rs. 12 lakhs next year to provide for the completion of this programme. Grants for measures to combat kala-azar and malaria have been increased by Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 20,000 respectively, and it has been decided to place on a permanent footing the malaria research observatories established experimentally at Sonarpur and Krishnagar. Other objects for which larger grants have been provided are free vaccination and maternity and child welfare. The question of food adulteration is also becoming increasingly important, and we have allotted funds to increase the staff in the public health laboratories at Calcutta and Dacca. The co-operation of district boards in this work is also hoped for and a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been included to enable grants to be given to several district boards willing to establish and run a laboratory for the analysis of water and articles of food.

The encouragement of local authorities to improve the supply of drinking water is one of the most pressing problems before us at present. District boards have been invited to take loans for this purpose on favourable terms, and a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs has been set aside next year in the Loans budget for the grant of such advances. Municipal towns which have had water-supply schemes worked out and approved, will receive grants-in-aid as well as loans in some cases. The amounts provided are for expenditure likely to be incurred next year and are shown at pages 75 and 95 of the financial statement. In some cases the balance of the grants or a loan will be payable in the following year. The list of these municipal towns includes Asansol, Bansberia, Chandpur, Satkhira, Tamluk, English Bazar (Malda), Brahmanbaria, Barisal, Jangipur, Jalpaiguri, Midnapore, Dacca and Narayanganj. The water-supply of Kalimpong will also be improved and the Tittagarh Sewerage Scheme will be aided.

Under Agriculture it is intended to continue a scheme for the improvement of cattle at a cost of over Rs. 13,000. Under this scheme grants are made to co-operative societies for the purchase of

bulls and premia are paid to the owners of approved bulls. I may also mention that in the course of this year Government decided to make no charge in future for serum supplied to district boards to deal with epidemics of cattle-disease. Free serum up to a limit of Rs. 70,000 a year will be supplied. The buildings of the Rangpur Cattle Farm will also be improved and the river bank revetment of the Royal Botanic Garden will be put in order. A grant of Rs. 3,000 is being given to the Viswa Bharati for its agricultural farm at Bolpur.

Objection was taken last year to the inadequate staff of auditors appointed by Government for co-operative societies, while the societies were required to pay fees for audit. The deficiency was made good in part by the appointment of 46 auditors, funds for whom were voted by the Council in the course of this year. I am glad to say that we are providing next year for a further increase of 53 auditors together with 2 inspectors for supervision. With this augmented staff it will then be possible to carry out the audit of all societies including those which will come into existence during the year. It is the intention in future to regulate the number of auditors automatically according to the number of societies to be audited.

In the Department of Industries, the demonstration of improved processes in the soap and shellac industries and for the manufacture of brass and bellmetal articles is being continued and funds are being given for new experiments in the manufacture of cutlery articles and for research into oil-bearing seeds. The engineering section of the industrial research laboratory will be supplied with more equipment.

I have already mentioned the more noticeable civil works under the several heads. We propose to initiate projects estimated to cost eventually Rs. 18,23,000, of which Rs. 12,75,000 are for expenditure in 1930-31. The details of these as well as of works in progress are shown in Appendix B of the financial statement. The only other important project that need be referred to here is the replacement of the bridge over the Teesta on the Kalimpong Road by a structure adequate to modern needs at a cost of about Rs. 3½ lakhs, of which it is estimated that Rs. 2 lakhs will be spent next year.

An important development has to be recorded in the electrical division of the Public Works Department. This kind of work has increased to such an extent in Calcutta and the districts that a reorganisation can no longer be delayed. An officer of the rank of Superintending Engineer will be placed in charge, with Executive Engineers under him, two in Calcutta to deal with works and stores and one at Dacca for the mufassal, together with increased subordinate staff. This is the staff considered to be indispensably necessary for the adequate and economical control of the electrical works and installations in Government offices and buildings.

Government have endeavoured, as far as possible within the resources at their disposal, to make a fair distribution throughout the various branches of the administration. They have been able to put before this Council new ultimate expenditure totalling Rs. 46¼ lakhs, which is divided practically equally between the Reserved and Transferred Departments of Government. This has been made possible partly owing to the short expenditure during the current year and partly to the abnormal receipt of Rs. 52 lakhs and the consequent increase in our closing balance. Only Rs. 3¾ lakhs of this new expenditure are, as I have said before, for schemes involving recurring expenditure, and we must look to larger and expanding revenues before we can hope to make any substantial and sustained progress. In the conditions which have prevailed in the last few years and in view of the uncertainty of the future, our policy has been to maintain as sound a financial position as possible and not to reduce our balances too much or too rapidly. As the future situation is still uncertain, we must continue this policy of caution. When introducing the budget last year I referred to the visit of the Statutory Commission and to the strong case that all parties in Bengal had put up for a revision of the financial settlement. We are now patiently and anxiously awaiting the Commission's report which is expected in the near future, and we confidently hope that the recommendations in that report will be in the direction of giving much financial relief to Bengal. It is perhaps hardly to be expected that any changes made as a result of these recommendations will come in time for the budget of 1931-32; but I am sure that Bengal having waited patiently ever since 1921, will cheerfully wait for one more year, provided that it is clear beyond all doubt that relief from the past penury is in immediate prospect. With that hope we can look to the future with much more confidence.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 2-30 p.m., on Thursday, the 27th February, 1930, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE COUNCIL met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 27th February, 1930, at 2-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh) in the Chair, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, KT., C.I.E., the three Hon'ble Ministers and 84 nominated and elected members.

Oath or affirmation.

The following members made an oath or affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown:—

Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur.

Mr. Sarat Chandra Bal.

Babu Gokul Chandra Bural.

Mr. S. M. Bose, Bar.-at-Law.

Mr. R. Maiti, Bar.-at-Law.

Rai Shashanka Kumar Ghosh Bahadur, C.I.E.

Dr. Amulya Ratan Ghose.

Mr. J. N. Gupta, C.I.E., M.B.E.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Ganganandapur and Amritabazar charitable dispensaries in the district of Jessore.

*83. **Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department aware that recently two charitable dispensaries have been established in the district of Jessore, one by the poor people of Ganganandapur and another by those of Amritabazar?

(*b*) Is it a fact that both the localities are very unhealthy and have no charitable dispensaries within a radius of about 15 miles?

(*c*) Is it a fact that both the dispensaries have been recognised by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Ganganandapur dispensary is being subsidised by the local union board and an influential zamindar has offered through the Collector a donation of Rs. 5,000 and a monthly subscription of Rs. 15 towards its maintenance?

(*e*) Is it a fact that both the dispensary committees and the union boards in the localities approached the district board for a subsidy?

(*f*) Is it also a fact that the applications were strongly recommended by the Civil Surgeon and the District Magistrate?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the application from the Amritabazar dispensary committee has not been taken into consideration by the board?

(*h*) Is it also a fact that the application from the Ganganandapur dispensary was granted by the finance committee but rejected by the board?

(*i*) If so, are the Government considering the advisability of inquiring into the matter?

MINISTER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray): (*a*) Charitable dispensaries have been opened in villages Ganganandapur and Amritabazar in Jessore district.

(*b*) These two villages are not known to be more unhealthy than other parts of the Jessore district. There are charitable dispensaries within a radius of 15 miles.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Both applications are recommended by the Civil Surgeon and the District Magistrate.

(*g*) The application from the Amritabazar dispensary committee is referred to in a resolution about the application for a grant to the Ganganandapur dispensary.

(*h*) The application of the Ganganandapur dispensary for a grant was postponed for six months at a meeting on the 20th July, 1929, to be considered along with the application for aid to the Amritabazar dispensary.

(*i*) Does not arise.

Engagement of typists to perform unremunerative works in the Civil Courts at Jessore.

***84. Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the typists (specially) of the Civil Courts at Jessore are engaged to perform unremunerative works, such as preparation of copies of judgments in sessions cases for prisoners?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that Government resolution No. 6333J., dated the 17th July, 1929, of the Judicial Department is a departure from this local practice and does not imply that the typists should do these works free of charge?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instructions to put a stop to this irregular practice?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. Under rule 5, Chapter XII of High Court's General Rules and Circular Orders (Civil Volume I), every licensed typist is liable to be called upon to perform such unremunerated work as the presiding officer of the Court may require, such as the copies of judgments for appellants in jail.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member kindly tell us whether he can make some provision for some remuneration for these typists?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: The matter rests primarily with the High Court.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member kindly refer this matter to the High Court?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: This is a request for action. In any case I am not prepared to do this.

Defalcation in the office of the Inspector-General of Police, Bengal.

*65. **Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department aware—

(*i*) of a defalcation of over Rs. 10,000 in 1921 in the office of the Inspector-General of Police;

(*ii*) that the defalcation was brought to light at the time of making over charge by accountant Surendra Nath Bhattacharji to Akhoy Kumar Guha; and

(*iii*) that departmental audit of the accounts was made by a district accountant Babu Saroda Kumar Bose and subsequently by the Accountant-General, Bengal; if so, with what result?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the accountant in fault was not put before the Court nor was any information lodged with the police for the arrest of the accountant in fault?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the defalcation arose on account of the neglect and ignorance of the account rules of the then Registrar?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Registrar was not called on to explain the matter nor was he ordered to make good the loss?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) (*i*) There were irregularities and defalcation by the accountant and cashier of the office of the Inspector-General of Police during the years 1918-22. The amount defalcated was less than Rs. 2,000 and was recovered.

(*ii*) No. The defalcation was brought to the notice of the Inspector-General by the Registrar.

(*iii*) The audit was made by the Accountant-General's staff and the Accountant-General submitted a report to Government with the result that the accounts were adjusted in consultation with that office.

(*b*) The accountant absconded and was not prosecuted. Information was lodged with the police for his arrest.

(*c*) There were two Registrars during the period of the irregularities. The irregularities were facilitated by the non-observance of one of the rules of business of the Inspector-General's office.

(*d*) The Registrar (Rai Tarak Chandra Datta Bahadur) was called on to explain. There was no loss to Government.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: With reference to the answer to question (*b*) will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the accountant was arrested, or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I must ask for notice. This occurrence took place several years ago, over 5 years, long before my time, and I do not know the facts without inquiry.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Allowance given to demonstrators deputed to the Rangpur Tobacco Farm for training.

61. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many demonstrators were deputed for 52 days to the Rangpur Tobacco Farm for training in 1928; and

(*ii*) on what basis they were granted travelling allowance?

(*b*) Is it a fact that some of them were given transfer travelling allowance while others were given only ordinary travelling allowance?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any halting allowances were granted to them?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the allowances were given to all the demonstrators deputed?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the differential treatment?

MINISTER in charge of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. Farequi): (*a*) (*i*) Eleven.

(*a*) (*ii*) and (*b*) Some drew transfer allowances and some drew ordinary tour allowances without halting allowance. The difference arose from the fact that the allowances were drawn from different offices. All have now been placed on the same footing, namely, ordinary tour allowance without halting allowance.

(*c*) No halting allowances were given, because accommodation was provided at the farm.

(*d*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

Excise licences to females.

62. Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries (Excise) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing how many females are holding excise licences at present—

(*i*) in Calcutta and Howrah; and

(*ii*) in the rest of the Presidency?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what grounds these licences were granted to females?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Calcutta Licensing Board made a recommendation to Government to eliminate female licensees?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Commissioner of Excise directed the Collector of Calcutta to entertain no application from females for excise licences?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state his policy regarding the granting of excise licences to females?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing how many females in Calcutta and Howrah are, at present, holding licences for sale of—

(*i*) ganja and opium;

(*ii*) country liquor;

(*iii*) foreign liquor;

(*iv*) liquor in hotels and restaurants; and

(*v*) what is their respective income?

MINISTER in charge of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray): (*a*) (*i*) Twenty-three.

(*ii*) Ninety-nine.

(*b*) In most of the cases the licences are held jointly with a male and have been granted mostly to the heirs of the deceased male licensee on special grounds such as continuance of an established and reputed business concern, allowance of sufficient time to wind up a business, etc. But in the case of pachwai shops in Midnapore, it is

reported that the customary practice is for women to carry on the business of brewing and therefore licences are given to them where men are not available.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) At present there is no definite policy in the matter of granting licences to females though there is a marked tendency in the department not to grant licences to females as a result of individual efforts of some Commissioners of Excise. The whole question is now under the consideration of the Government and a definite policy will be laid down as soon as possible.

(*g*) (*i*) Five.

(*ii*) Nil.

(*iii*) Fifteen.

(*iv*) Four.

(*v*) The net income is not known as it depends on the rent and other expenses incurred by the licensee in running the business.

Promotion from supervisors to auditors of co-operative societies.

63. Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state on what basis the percentage of recruitment by promotion from supervisors to auditors of co-operative societies was fixed?

(*b*) What is the percentage of such promotion?

(*c*) Has the Registrar of Co-operative Societies expressed any opinion regarding this percentage?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of increasing this percentage to give more encouragement to the qualified supervisors of the central banks than has hitherto been done?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. FAROQUI: (*a*) The percentage of recruitment by promotion from supervisors to auditors of co-operative societies was fixed on the analogy of the percentage of promotion from subordinate services to the Bengal Junior Civil Service.

(*b*) 20 per cent.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

Mor embankments.

64. Mr. ARUN CHANDRA SINGHA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that under the terms of the kabuliyat by which the zamindars of Bengal hold their lands they are bound to maintain, repair and construct embankments wherever and whenever necessary to protect the country from inundations;

(*ii*) that the zamindars of Fatehsing and Rukkunpore in Murshidabad have been receiving allowances from Government ever since the Moghul rule for the protection of the country from sandy inundations of the Mor river; and

(*iii*) that, in spite of it, breaches occur every year in the Mor embankments and cause damages to the country side destroying all standing crops, desolating large tracts of land with deep deposits of sand, tearing up roads, choking up drains, and converting lower grounds in the interior into lagoons?

(*b*) What steps, if any, are being taken by the Government to ensure the proper application of the Government grants and safety of the surrounding country?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of removing the embankments altogether, rendering the country thereby less liable to the sudden and violent invasions of the sandy waters of the Mor and minimising the damage caused by them?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of inquiring how the deltaic region of the Mor will be affected by the excavation of the proposed Mor canal?

(*e*) If the Mor canal proposal is carried into effect, what steps the Government propose to take to safeguard the irrigation of the lower basin of the Mor?

MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mittar): (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) It appears that the allowances are being paid from so far back as 1790 or even (a few years) earlier.

(*iii*) Government have no information.

(*b*) Attempts were made from time to time to induce the zamindars to maintain the embankments in a more satisfactory condition but the Embankment Act does not provide any means for compelling them to do so.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) and (*e*) The questions referred to will be duly considered in any scheme that may be drawn up.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to inform us whether there is any scheme for the excavation of the Mor canal?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: This is a matter entirely concerning the Irrigation Department.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Somebody should be able to answer this.

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. J. Twynam): Perhaps I can give some information. There was a scheme, but it is in a preliminary stage.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: On which side of the river, the northern or the southern side?

Mr. H. J. TWYNAM: I must ask for notice of this.

Articles of uniform of the Calcutta and Bengal Police.

65. Maulvi ASHRAFUDDIN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the articles of uniform of Calcutta and Bengal Police; and

(*ii*) the names, addresses of the parties who supply those articles together with their rates?

(*b*) Are the articles of uniform the products of the Bengal Presidency or of elsewhere?

(*c*) What are the reasons for not purchasing from local firms the articles manufactured and available locally?

(*d*) Is it not a fact that the Government instructions are to give preference to articles made locally?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) (*i*) The member is referred to rules 1427 to 1432 in Chapter XXXIV of the Police Regulations, Bengal, Volume I, which show the articles of uniform supplied to members of the provincial police force. A list showing the uniform of the subordinate ranks of the Calcutta Police force is laid on the table.

(*ii*) As prescribed in rule 1442 of the Police Regulations, Bengal, the supply of uniform is obtained by calling tenders, preference being given to the Jail Department. The source of supply and the rates are not therefore the same every year.

(*b*) The samples produced with the tenders for approval are not necessarily the manufactures of Bengal.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise in view of the above answers.

List of uniform referred to in the reply to clause (a) (i) of unstarred question No. 65.

Articles of uniform of the Calcutta Police.

Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Sergeants and Writer Head Constables—Foot Police.

Helmet.	Gaiters.
Forage cap.	Sword belt.
Pugree. (Up-country inspectors and sub-inspectors.)	Sword.
	Whistle.
Patrol coat.	Greatcoat.
Trousers.	Waterproof.
Boots.	

Head Constables and Constables—Foot Police.

Pugree.	Shoes.
Coat.	Belt.
Jumper.	Greatcoat.
Cardigan.	Waterproof.
Knickers.	Lathi.
Puttees.	Umbrella.
Boots.	Whistle.

Inspector, Sergeant-Major and Sergeants—Mounted Police.

Helmet.	Sword.
Forage cap.	Whip.
Patrol coat.	Whistle.
Overalls.	Greatcoat.
Wellington boots.	Waterproof.
Breeches.	Saddle.
Jack boots.	Bridle.
Sword belt.	

Ressaldar, Jamadars and Sowers—Mounted Police.

Pugree.	Sword.
Coat.	Chowri.
Breeches.	Whistle, greatcoat, waterproof.
Puttees.	Undress pugree.
Jack boots.	Undress shirt.
Ankle boots.	Jodhpur breeches.
Cummerband.	Cardigan.
Belt.	Saddle, bridle.

Armed Police-Inspector, Sergeant-Majors, Sergeants and Jamadars and Patrol Sergeants.

Helmet.	Cardigan.
Forage cap.	Shirt.
Frock.	Belt.
Shorts.	Sword.
Puttees.	Revolver.
Boots.	Greatcoat.
Slacks.	Waterproof.

Havildars, Naiks, Lance Naiks and Sepoys—Armed Police.

Pugree.	Puttees.
Coat.	Boots.
Jumper.	Belt.
Cardigan.	Greatcoat.
Shirts.	Waterproof.

Commissioner's and Deputy Commissioner's personal orderlies.

Coat.	Greatcoat.
Breeches.	Cardigan.
Pugree.	Shoes.

Note.—Waterproofs are issued and kept for general use and for distribution to officers and men entitled to free kit and going on out-door duties for which waterproofs will be actually required during the rains. This will include both men actually on duty at any one given time and those going out to relieve them. The total number of waterproofs in stock should not exceed 70 per cent. of the total strength.

Recent famine in the Brahmanbaria subdivision of the Tippera district.

66. Maulvi ASHRAFUDDIN CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the Brahmanbaria subdivision of the Tippera district—

(*i*) the number of people affected by the recent famine;

(*ii*) the area in each of the thanas affected;

(*iii*) the money paid by Government—

(*a*) as gratuitous relief,

(*b*) as agricultural loan,

(*c*) by any other means to help the people in distress;

(*iv*) when the area has been declared as famine stricken;

(*v*) the month from which the agricultural loan is being distributed amongst the affected people;

(*vi*) the actual amount advanced or paid by Government to the people in distress up to January, 1930—

(*a*) by way of relief,

(*b*) as agricultural loan;

(*vii*) the number of deaths that have occurred within the affected area, either directly or indirectly due to starvation; and

(*viii*) the names of the persons who died of starvation?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that Abu Musa, Sasi Mohan and another man of the village of Paksimull named Asraf Ali, died of starvation within the famine-affected area?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the Secretary, Chunta Relief Committee, published a declaration that Abu Musa, son of Sekandar Ali, died of starvation on the 21st of October, 1929?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that famine has also broken out in the police-stations Daudkandi and Homna, within the Sadar subdivision of the Tippera district?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) (*i*) The total number of persons, more or less, affected by the floods was 2,50,000, of whom about 50,000 were seriously affected.

(*ii*) Names of thanas.

	Area affected (in square miles).
(1) Nasirnagar	... 95
(2) Sarail	... 65
(3) Brahmanbaria	... 90
(4) Kasba	... 25
(5) Nabinagar	... 21
(6) Bancharampur	... 10
Total	... 306

(*iii*) (*a*) Rs. 5,500.

(*b*) Rs. 2,53,000.

(*c*) (*i*) Loans issued by the Brahmanbaria central bank to its rural societies from 1st June, 1929, Rs. 2,29,120.

(*ii*) Loans issued by the Nabinagar central bank to its rural societies from 1st June up to date, Rs. 50,000.

Loans proposed to be issued by the Zamindar of the Sarail Estate in consultation with Subdivisional Officer, Brahmanbaria, Rs. 55,000.

Amount paid by the Zamindar of the Sarail Estate for gratuitous relief, Rs. 5,000.

Amount collected by the Subdivisional Officer, Circle Officers, and the Central Relief Committee, Brahmanbaria, Rs. 6,752.

Amount sanctioned by the district board for relief works, Rs. 10,000.

Amount advanced by Government to district board for further relief works, Rs. 20,000.

(*iv*) The area has not been declared as famine-stricken as famine conditions do not exist, although there is distress in some of the areas affected by the floods.

(*v*) November, 1929.

(*vi*) (*a*) As gratuitous relief, Rs. 1,500.

Advanced by Government to the district board for relief works, Rs. 20,000.

(*b*) Rs. 1,43,696.

The balance of about one lakh has been earmarked for advances in February, 1930, for the purchase of cattle and agricultural operations.

(*vii*) There have been no deaths from starvation, according to the inquiries made by Government.

(*viii*) Does not arise.

(*b*) Inquiries into the deaths of (1) Abu Musa, (2) Sasi Mohan, and (3) Asraf Ali, who are alleged to have died of starvation were made, but the reports were ascertained to be baseless on information obtained from responsible people.

(1) Abu Musa died of dysentery, (2) Sasi Mohan, a boy of 4 years, died of measles complicated with intestinal catarrh as certified by a respectable private medical practitioner, (3) Asraf Ali died of fever.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

Cinchona cultivation.

67. Mr. ARUN CHANDRA SINGHA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department aware that the stock of cinchona, quinine, and its allied products is going on accumulating and at present more than twenty years' supply is in store?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the people of the presidency are dying by thousands every year of malaria?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of distributing the drug free in the affected districts?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason why the sale of the drug has been so restricted that the charitable dispensaries under private management cannot get sufficient supply?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that Bengal is capable of supplying her own needs and those of the whole of India?

(*f*) If so, what are the reasons for stopping further cultivation and production of quinine?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Stocks of factory products are increasing. Provincial stocks held at present would last for 2 or 3 years at present rates of demand.

(*b*) The member is referred to the reply to starred question No. 27 asked by Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy on the 6th February, 1930.

(*c*) Provision of Rs. 1,20,000 for this purpose is made annually in the Public Health budget, and a special additional allotment of Rs. 80,000 was made in the year 1928-29. The Revenue Department is concerned with the manufacture and not with the distribution of quinine.

(*d*) The sale of the drug has not been restricted and charitable dispensaries under private management can get all the quinine they require on payment of the price.

(*e*) Bengal is capable of supplying the present needs of the province but not its full potential needs. Bengal cannot supply the needs of the whole of India.

(*f*) There is no question of stopping the further cultivation and production of quinine: extensions of the planted area are still going on.

Number of non-denominational high English schools for boys and the strength of their teaching staff.

68. Maulvi ASHRAFUDDIN CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the present number of mixed Government high English schools in this province;

(*ii*) the number of students and the relative strength of the different communities; and

(*iii*) the number of teachers teaching general subjects and the relative strength of each community?

MINISTER *in charge of* EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Nazimuddin): (*i*) There are 36 non-denominational high schools for boys.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Statements containing these particulars regarding these schools are laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (ii) of unstarred question No. 68 showing the total number of students of each community in the non-denominational Government high schools for boys in Bengal.

Number of schools	...	36
Number of students—		
Hindus	...	7,978
Muhammadans	...	2,364
Christians	...	39
Others	...	213
Total	...	10,594

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (iii) of unstarred question No. 68 showing the strength of the teaching staff.

Moslems	...	113
Non-Moslems	...	320
Total	...	433

Lecturer in the Arabic Department, Calcutta Madrasah.

69. Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR-RAHMAN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that the post of a lecturer in the Calcutta Madrasah, Arabic Department, was advertised and applications were received up to the 22nd June, 1929?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the selection was made on the 23rd July, 1929?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the non-official member, representing the governing body on the sub-committee, dissented in the matter of selection?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the vacancy has not yet been permanently filled up?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(b) Applications were considered by a sub-committee appointed by the governing body on the 23rd July, 1929.

(c) and (e) Government are not prepared to disclose the proceedings of the governing body or of any sub-committee appointed by it.

(d) Yes.

Statement laid on the table as promised on the 20th February, 1930, in reply to a question supplementary to starred question No. 53 put by Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy.

Magistrate's order to prevent obstruction, riot, etc.

(No. XXI, Schedule V, Act V, 1898.)

(Section 144, Cr. P. C.)

In the matter of public meetings, etc., in the certain parts of the district of Jessore.

Section 144, Cr. P. C.

WHEREAS it appears from a report dated the 28th December, 1929 (marked 1), submitted to me by the Superintendent of Police, Jessore, that meetings will be held in certain parts of this district.

AND whereas such meetings will be held with a view to carrying on a propaganda against union boards established by law in this district and creating general disaffection against the Government established by law in British India, as well as among the different classes of His Majesty's subjects, with objectionable speeches (with or without magic lanterns), with demonstrations including the taking out of objectionable processions, with the exhibition of objectionable banners, flags, etc., with objectionable sounds or cries, and in various other ways, such meetings or demonstrations involving disturbance of the public tranquillity, riot, affray, and lawlessness.

AND whereas in my opinion, there is in the circumstances, sufficient ground for proceeding under section 144, Cr. P. C., and that immediate prevention and speedy remedy are desirable.

I, therefore, under section 144, Cr. P. C., in view of the material facts of the case, as noted above, direct all individuals concerned and the public generally to abstain from holding or attending such meetings or demonstrations, etc., as aforesaid within the local limits of Kotwali, Kaliganj, Bagherpara and Salikha police-stations of this district.

Any cause which is sought to be shown against this order may be shown before me in my court on the 10th January, 1930.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this day the 28th December, 1929.

A. S. LARKIN,

District Magistrate, Jessore.

The 28th December, 1929.

Forwarded to the Superintendent of Police, Jessore, for service and report.

A. S. LARKIN,

District Magistrate, Jessore.

The 28th December, 1929.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

General discussion of the Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1930-31.

Mr. PRESIDENT: There will now be a general discussion of the Budget for 1930-31.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: May I have the indulgence of the House for a few minutes to make some observations on the next year's budget, and the administrative problems affected by it. I think we have reason to congratulate ourselves and the Hon'ble Finance Member on the fact that we are not faced with a deficit budget, and that the expected revenues of the province are sufficient to meet our requirements. But as the Hon'ble Member has himself pointed out our somewhat solvent position next year is mainly due to a windfall of nearly Rs. 52 lakhs from probate duty on a large estate, yet he apprehends that our reserve fund will be reduced next year to the extent of Rs. 79½ lakhs. Therefore our position is not altogether one for satisfaction or congratulation, and the Hon'ble Member has been compelled to follow a cautious policy and provision has been made for additional recurring expenditure of only 3 lakhs of rupees. Indeed he says that we are faced with the position that though our financial resources have been somewhat augmented, yet unless we have far larger and more expanding sources of income, we cannot hope to put forward any scheme of substantial progress in this province. I need hardly say that we agree with the Hon'ble Member in this view. But I had hoped that this year, when we are standing on the threshold

of momentous constitutional changes, involving a re-arrangement of the financial resources of the provinces we should take the opportunity of reviewing our financial position and make a strong representation before the Government of India or the authority which will have to deal finally with this question for a revision of our present financial position. The Hon'ble Member has, however, thought it better to adopt a more restrained and cautious attitude; perhaps he thinks modesty is more likely to arouse pity in the breasts of our masters than plain speaking. We, however, feel on this side of the House, that this is a psychological moment when we should all combine, official and non-official members of the House, of all shades of opinion, with the Government and demand that justice should be done to Bengal. This is pre-eminently an occasion when we must cast aside the proverbial meekness and docility of the Bengali character and show to the rest of India that Bengal is capable of fighting for her rights on an occasion like this.

Within the short time at my disposal it is not possible for me, with my limited knowledge, to place before you the history of the long continued starvation of this province at the hands of the Central Government, and the dire and distressful consequences of that policy to this province. We all know that after the Reforms, our position has still further deteriorated whereas those of other provinces has shown a marked improvement. Nothing which I can say on the floor of this House will be new to you. We know that Bengal, probably the richest province in India, with an income of Rs. 35 crores is left with a poor income of only Rs. 11 crores to cater to the requirements of a population of nearly 46 millions. Compare this with Bombay with a population of 19 millions, having an income of over Rs. 15 crores. The Punjab with an income of Rs. 13 crores is left with Rs. 11 crores and the United Provinces with an income of Rs. 15 crores has Rs. 13 crores. We do not see any reason why the most populous and richest province in India should be subjected to a treatment which must inevitably tend to make her the most backward and poorest province in time. Our sources of income are inadequate and inelastic. Our entire income-tax and customs revenues are taken away by the Government of India; so also our income from the chief monopoly produce—jute—amounting to nearly Rs. 3½ crores. With our small income we have to maintain in Calcutta which pays crores of rupees to the coffers of Government of India a costly police force costing over 40 lakhs of rupees for which we get no contribution from the Central Government. May I therefore suggest that this House should consider the advisibility of forming a strong committee composed of official and non-official members who should make a last effort to place our case before the powers-that-be? I do not know whether His Excellency the Viceroy will have to place our case before the House of Commons. That is a matter which His Excellency the

Viceroy will have to decide and advise us, how our case can be represented somehow before the joint committee of the Houses of Parliament. I ask the House to support me to give an assurance to His Excellency the Viceroy, who is most anxious to rally all shades of responsible opinion in India to the cause of ordered and constitutional progress, that in Bengal all shades of public opinion, conservative, liberal and Governmental, are united in thinking that this state of things cannot be tolerated, and cannot be continued and that nothing will rally public opinion in Bengal so effectively as an assurance from His Excellency that Bengal will receive a parity of treatment with other provinces.

May I now say a few words on the budget itself. As I have said before, the only recurring expenditure of Rs. 3½ lakhs is provided for in the budget. As for capital expenditure, the Hon'ble Member has provided Rs. 5 lakhs for Police, Rs. 4 lakhs for Education, Rs. 3 lakhs for Public Health, and something for Agriculture. On the whole he said that the available surplus of the province has been divided equally between the Reserved and Transferred Departments. But we must not forget in this connection that the transferred departments have started with an initial disadvantage of having been starved for a considerably long time.

Turning now to the proposed Education grant of Rs. 4 lakhs, the Hon'ble Member has pointed out how expenditure on Education in the transferred side has grown from Rs. 97 lakhs to over Rs. 130 lakhs, but it must be remembered that this grant is entirely for higher education and, as far as I can gather, there is nothing in this grant for mass education at all. On the other hand, expenditure on police administration has grown by leaps and bounds; in 1913, it was only Rs. 94 lakhs, and to-day it is well over 2 crores of rupees, engrosses one-fifth of the total revenue of the province. I have myself been a Government servant and fully realize and I am sure every responsible member of this House realizes the vital importance of upholding law and order, but at the same time we cannot afford to forget the fact that a most mischievous vicious circle is being established in this province. Continued expenditure on the police means that there is less and less on the nation-building departments, the result being more and more dissatisfaction among the intelligent sections of the people followed by crimes and the time has come for taking bold and drastic measures for breaking through this vicious circle and instal such measures as will bring happiness to the people.

Going further into details, I find that for Agriculture provision has only been made for the improvement of cattle and for the provision of free serum for cattle inoculation. We all remember that the Royal Commission on Agriculture, when dealing with agricultural progress of the different provinces in India, came to the conclusion that Bengal was one of the most backward provinces in India, and that expenditure

on this vital sphere of the administration was far behind the necessities of the situation. Where Bengal has increased its expenditure from Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 lakhs in 8 to 10 years, the Punjab and the United Provinces have increased their expenditure to Rs. 22 to Rs. 25 lakhs, respectively.

Turning to the question of Sanitation and Public Health, I think we will all agree that in Bengal this is a more vital question than in any other part of India, and I am glad to find that there is a provision of Rs. 3 lakhs to enable district boards to complete a scheme for providing a staff of health officers for rural areas. Anyone who has had experience of the volume of health and preventive work to be done in this province will agree with me that this provision again falls far short of requirements of the situation. While in the Presidency Division the Alipore District Board, under the guidance of my friend Mr. Cassells, then Magistrate, did most valuable work in this field, but there is a vast scope for much more intensive work wanting lakhs and lakhs of rupees in this direction. I have seen villages in Midnapore depopulated and I know, as a matter of fact, that kala-azar and malaria have established themselves on the very vitals of the people, and it is high time that Government ought to fully realize its responsibilities in this matter. Irrigation too is very badly neglected. We all know that the Agriculture Commission said, when in this Province, that the bulk of the allotments for Irrigation had been spent on waterways, and we find that on an average only Rs. 3 lakhs have been spent on Irrigation proper out of the total of Rs. 12 lakhs allotted, the rest being devoted to the upkeep of waterways. Small irrigation schemes in Bankura, which I represent in this House, did a lot of good work with limited funds started some years ago by some energetic district officers; these schemes are now in a moribund condition for want of funds and really expert engineers. I strongly urge for more funds to be set apart for irrigation schemes for Bankura and Birbhum———

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: The member is drifting away from his point. Should he not address his remarks to the Chair?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I did not like to upset Mr. Gupta as he was making his maiden speech, or interrupt the flow of his rhetoric, but I may tell him that the practice of the House is that every word that a member wishes to speak should be addressed to the Chair and not to the members of the House.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: My many humble apologies to the Chair. I hope you will not find me err in this respect in future.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: May I have 5 minutes more?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, you may.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I should say that the time has come when Bengal must take comprehensive measures for the economic uplift of the people. We have schemes already initiated under the Local Self-Government Act, we have a circle system, we have union boards, and we thus have a machinery available to enable us to take up rural reconstruction work in right earnest.

3 p.m.

If we have in each union a medical institution, a union farm, and also a model school for 150 students, I think we will make a good beginning. For this purpose even if we take only selected union boards, it will require a crore of rupees. To follow, however, a cautious policy we will ask the Finance Member to let us have at least Rs. 50 lakhs—I hope he will not start at the mention of this figure—and let the people to be benefited by the scheme, raise the other Rs. 50 lakhs by self-taxation. Let us begin at once. The betterment of the political and economic foundation of the country depends entirely on the way in which we are able to do useful and constructive work in this direction, and there is no other task which is so important for Bengal at the present moment. Let Government introduce a Bill—a Rural Reconstruction Bill—but if the Government think that they are not prepared to do this, I dare say the non-official members of this House will be prepared to bring forward such a Bill.

It may be said that the Bill for rural reconstruction work may clash with the scheme of primary education for which legislation has already been proposed by the Government. In my humble opinion the introduction of Universal Primary Education Bill may wait till we receive a better recognition of our financial needs from the Government of India and till Government are in a position to make a substantial financial contribution to the scheme. It will be a grave political blunder to launch upon a scheme of universal primary education of the masses without the sympathies of the very people in whose interest it is conceived. There are many places in western Bengal where compulsory primary education is bound to be a failure under the present conditions, you cannot get pupils to go to school where during the fever season the majority of the people are down with fever. I will with some confidence say that I have some practical experience of the lines on which primary education can be pushed in this country. It will be a great mistake to expect under the present conditions any attendance in schools during the fever season. The scheme for rural reconstruction must take precedence over universal compulsory primary education. You cannot go very far

with your scheme for primary education now, however much you wish to do so. I therefore beg the House to consider whether it will not be wiser to do the spade work by introducing a Rural Reconstruction Bill.

Next, I would like the House to consider whether something should not be done for the unemployed educated young men of the country, to relieve the distress of the intelligentsia of the province. The Governor of the Central Provinces in the short time he has been there has signalised his short tenure of service by appointing a special committee to investigate this matter. I consider scientific agriculture and farming to be a very suitable occupation for our unemployed young men. The attention of the Government of India was drawn to this matter, but nothing had been done. While in the Board I collaborated with an energetic district officer and we formulated a scheme of an experimental farm in the Sunderbans tract of that district. But how could any scheme be worked without a lead from the Government and the provision of adequate funds? I would most strongly urge that a well considered scheme for the establishment of such farms in selected areas should be laid down and at least 5 lakhs of rupees on this head be provided in the budget.

Lastly, as regards the military training of your young men, I would urge that a strong committee of official and non-official members of this House be appointed to examine the whole question and put forward its recommendations for providing adequate facilities for our young men to receive military training. The Calcutta University not long ago passed a resolution on military training being made compulsory for all our students.

I will not detain you, gentlemen, any longer. But let me say to the members of this House that Bengal has lost much valuable time, let us now take up constructive work in right earnest. And to the Government need I say that there should be no object dearer than the uplift of the masses.

Maharaja JAGADISH NATH ROY, of Dinajpur: Mr. President, Sir, I am tempted to make a few general observations on the budget that has been presented to us by the Hon'ble the Finance Member, although I feel that for a new member of the Council like myself it is not possible to deal with the questions arising out of the budget with such precision and accuracy as may be possible for a senior member to do. In spite however of the unavoidable disadvantage under which I am labouring I shall make an attempt to make a few observations regarding what I have been able to gather from the budget figures presented to us. Sir, the financial position of the Government as disclosed by the budget figures is perhaps an index

of the prosperity or otherwise of the administration and I can hardly congratulate the Hon'ble Member upon the budget he has presented to us. I think the Hon'ble Member is himself conscious of the fact that the budget is a deficit budget, as he has himself said that to meet the expenditure of the next year a large drawal is required to be made from the balances, with the result that the closing balance is expected to be reduced by Rs. 79¼ lakhs. The Hon'ble Member has referred to the windfall of Rs. 52 lakhs which enabled him to meet the expenditure of the current year and that even with this additional Rs. 52 lakhs the revised receipts and expenditure on revenue account this year practically balance. We have been told that in the current year there is a decline of Rs. 19 lakhs under "Stamps" and Rs. 8 lakhs under "Registration," which is attributed to the amended Bengal Tenancy Act, which is said to be the main underlying cause for the decline, although dull trade conditions are said to have influenced it to some extent. May I venture to ask the Hon'ble Member whether the general economic condition of the country is more responsible for the fact that fewer documents are being executed and registered in respect of lands than before and whether dull trade conditions only reflect the general economic condition of the people. During the present year as well as the last year the condition of the agriculturists in many districts in Bengal, including the district of Dinajpur which I represent, has been anything but satisfactory. It is well known to the Government that last year there was acute scarcity in many districts and the prospects of the present year, at any rate in my district, are far from reassuring. If the agriculturist suffers from acute economic distress, the landowners, the merchants and all men, carrying on various professions, are bound to suffer from financial difficulties and transactions in the shape of conveyances regarding landed properties are also affected a good deal. I venture to submit, therefore, Sir, that an investigation may be made as to how far the decline in the number of conveyances affecting lands is due to general economic causes, and how far to the amended Tenancy Act.

I desire, Sir, to congratulate the Hon'ble Member as he has found it possible to provide for increased expenditure in the transferred departments in spite of a fall in the expected receipts by about Rs. 43 lakhs. It is a happy feature of the budget that the needs of education, public health and agriculture have not been ignored and that attempts have been made for their steady improvement so far as possible. The provision for an increased expenditure of Rs. 4 lakhs under "Education" on the transferred side is satisfactory so far as it goes, and I am happy to find that the Government has seriously taken up the question of the improvement of the physical condition of the students. It is a matter of common knowledge that the general health of our boys studying in schools is far from satisfactory and that physical culture of the boys on well directed lines is one of the crying

needs of the hour. I am glad that the grant for the promotion of physical culture in non-Government schools has been increased from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 47,000. I do not know whether the provision made is adequate to meet the demands of the non-Government schools, and I have no doubt that Government will be prepared to increase the grant if the provision is found to be inadequate to secure the object in view. Compulsory physical training of the boys has not yet been enforced and it is high time that ways and means should be devised as to how our boys may be made to prosper not only intellectually but also physically. Along with physical culture comes the question of the supply of wholesome and nutritious food. The Hon'ble Member has very rightly remarked that the question of food adulteration is becoming increasingly important and funds have, therefore, been allotted to increase the staff in the public health laboratories at Calcutta and Dacca and a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been included to enable grants to be made to district boards willing to establish and run a laboratory for the analysis of water and articles of food. In this connection, I desire to point out that the present Food Adulteration Act does not seem to be adequate to deal with the appalling increase of adulterated articles of food with which the market is flooded and which is responsible for the deterioration of health not only of the boys but also of the people in general and which accounts for the increase of diseases of various kinds which the Public Health Department has to grapple with. It seems to me that legislation on more drastic lines is necessary to combat this growing evil and that articles of food sold in the market as vegetable ghee or vegetable products and with similar other denominations may be properly dealt with. The question of the supply of pure articles of food brings me on to the question of the supply of pure milk, which has become a rare commodity in the country. Infantile diseases and diseases of the children are mainly due to the want of pure milk upon which alone the life of the child depends. The problem has already become very acute and unless serious attention is given to this matter immediately, it will not be possible to improve the health of the children and young boys and girls, who are fast deteriorating in health. Some efforts are being made by the co-operative societies for the supply of pure milk but the problem cannot be solved until the bigger question of increasing the quantity of pure milk obtainable in the market is satisfactorily solved. I think it will not be disputed that the yield of milk of the country cows is gradually decreasing due to various causes of which the main causes appear to be want of proper grazing grounds and want of breeding bulls of the approved standard. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has told us that public health organisations in rural areas have been promoted by Government in recent years and the annual grant to district boards for these organisations is being increased by Rs. 3 lakhs. It seems to me, Sir, to be essential that strict supervision regarding

the supply of pure articles of food and particularly pure milk should be one of the primary functions of the sanitary officers in charge of the health organisations. We have been told that under "Agriculture" it is intended to continue a scheme for the improvement of cattle at a cost of Rs. 13,000. In this connection may I suggest to the Government that one of the practical ways of improving the condition of cattle is the establishment of model cattle farms where the people may see with their own eyes how the condition of the cows can be improved and how they can be made to give more milk. There is a cattle farm at Rangpur and I would suggest that such farms may be established in all districts where agricultural farms have already been instituted. The scheme is not likely to be very costly and I invite the attention of the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Agriculture to this matter.

3-15 p.m.

There is just one other matter to which I wish to refer before I sit down. I understand that a Committee has been appointed by the Government, called the Bengal Waterways Committee, to investigate into the condition of the dead and the dying rivers, canals and water courses, to find out the causes of their decay and to suggest means for reviving them wherever possible. The Committee paid a visit to my district only a few days ago, and they inspected some of the rivers and were convinced that the conditions of the Ghagra canal in the town of Dinajpur and of the rivers Gabura and Atrai outside the town were most appalling. It is undisputed that the health and prosperity of the people are intimately connected with the condition of the waterways and canals and that all possible efforts should be made to restore these dying rivers and water-logged canals to their normal condition. I beg to suggest that a survey should be made of the courses of the rivers and canals that have been a menace to the health of the people residing in their vicinities with a view to find out the causes of their decay and then to take steps to have the desired effect. The question of funds will undoubtedly be raised as it is done whenever schemes involving a large expenditure are pressed forward for the benefit of the people. But I hope, Sir, that the labours of the Waterways Committee may not be wasted and when they submit their report, their recommendations may not be shelved indefinitely on the plea of want of funds. There are various other important measures touching the health and wealth of the people which have been repeatedly urged on the floor of this House but which the Government could not take up for want of funds. I shall make no attempt, Sir, to deal with the larger questions of policy underlying the administration of the country and I will leave them for the present in the hands of more capable men. It seems to me, however, that there is no question requiring more attention of the Government at the present moment than the question

of the preservation of the health of the people. The statistics published by the Public Health Department from time to time disclose conditions of things which cannot but cause serious anxiety in the minds of all who desire to see their country prosper. We should bear in mind that no remedy can be really successful unless the causes of the decline of health and of the increase in mortality are found out and removed. The Hon'ble Finance Member has told us that we must look to larger and expanding revenue before we can hope to make any substantial and sustained progress. In framing the budget he has pursued a policy of caution which he says must be continued as the financial situation is still uncertain. He has, however, given us the hope of a bright future. Bengal having waited patiently since 1921, he said, will cheerfully wait for one more year provided that relief from the past penury is in immediate prospect. Let us all share with him that hope and live in that hope so that we may have the pleasure of finding that the unjust financial settlement under the Meston award may be unsettled and that the Hon'ble Member may not be under the present disadvantages but may be in a position to provide cheerfully and with a freer hand for the various measures of nation building which are held up for financial reasons at present.

Babu SATYENDRA NATH ROY: Sir, I cannot congratulate the Government or the Hon'ble the Finance Member for the budget which was presented to this Council the other day.

As a new member of this Council and making my first budget speech I am tempted to repeat a few words of Mr. Travers uttered in this Council in February, 1923, during the discussion of the budget: "There has been no money for even the commencement of any great schemes to ameliorate health or advance education to prove to the people that the Reforms are in being. The consequence is that the large majority of the people easily fall a prey to the agitator who tells them that the Reforms have done and will do nothing for them."

Sir, has any advance been made in ameliorating health or advancing education during these seven years which have rolled by and when we are on the eve of the publication of the report of the Statutory Commission. We have been told year after year *ad nauseum* that there are no sufficient funds for sanitation and education. When the Court-fees and Stamp Acts were amended an assurance was given that a good portion of the additional revenue raised would be spent for the transferred departments. Even after that the registration fees were raised by an executive order. Now we see every year the Police budget swelling up either for Police buildings or for additional Sergeants or for additional Commissioners or Superintendents or Assistant Superintendents of Police or for renewing old muskets. The General Administration is as top heavy as ever. No attempt has been made to reduce the number of Executive Councillors or to abolish the Commissioners of Divisions.

I do not know why the number of Ministers is sometimes three and sometimes two. Is it to have a stable equilibrium or an unstable equilibrium? When for nearly a year there were no Ministers the work of the departments could go on with four Executive Councillors.

We have no sufficient number of beds in our own hospitals. Sir, only the other day we had a very mournful tale told at the Coroner's Court in Calcutta, viz., that a patient who was not cured had to be discharged from hospital before his time to make room for another patient and the discharged man died a few days afterwards.

We are surprised to find a provision of Rs. 2,50,000 towards the Ranchi European Mental Hospital against a provision of Rs. 4,65,000 for the Indian Mental Hospital. Taking the population basis one would think that a few thousands would be quite enough for the European Hospital.

Sir, the rivers of some of the districts have silted up and malaria is taking its heavy toll. Have any measures been taken to dredge the rivers or improve their conditions and have sufficient funds been allocated for the prevention of malaria and kala-azar?

Sir, the Calcutta University, the premier University in India, is not getting justice at the hands of the Government.

A feeling of apathy is always shown by Government towards the Calcutta University. No statutory provision has been made for the Calcutta University like that for Dacca. Before the last quinquennial settlement was made Government came down upon the Calcutta University for making a lower estimate of income and Government agreed to pay Rs. 2,47,000 unconditionally and Rs. 53,000 conditionally if the income fell short.

During the last two years this sum of Rs. 53,000 had to be paid. While the Government was scrutinising the estimate of the University regarding both the income and expenditure it did not take into consideration the annual increment paid to the Post-graduate staff.

The Board of Accounts sent up a detailed estimate for 1930-31 and asked for a sum of about Rs. 5,25,000. The Post-graduate staff was sanctioned and appointed till December, 1930, and if the Government do not pay the amount asked for, the position would be that the staff would have a legal right to stay on while there would be no funds to pay. The attitude of Government is that all the expenditure have to be justified even on academic grounds. It will be admitted that the Syndicate is the academic authority—what right have the I. C. S. Secretary or the Director of Public Instruction to go into an academic scrutiny?

Regarding secondary education, the Inspecting staff is increasing year after year while grants to secondary schools are doled out most parsimoniously and managing committees are asked to meet deficits

by raising fee rates year after year under the threat of total stoppage of the Government grants. One is surprised to find that while the provision for grants to non-Government schools is only about Rs. 16 lakhs, that for direction and inspection the amount is Rs. 14 lakhs. We are looking forward to the day when primary education would be universal and compulsory. I hope a fair adjustment of the proportion of the cost to be borne by the different parties would be arrived at and Bengal would move forward foremost in this direction.

Sir, the Excise policy of Government is a standing shame to any civilised country. While India had to forego more than 10 crores of rupees by stopping the export of opium to China, her own Government are selling some of the most injurious drugs, *ganja* for instance to her people and deriving revenue from it. There may be conflicting medical and public opinions about the use of opium, but I do not think that any medical or public opinion has ever supported the use of *ganja*. Although the Government of Bengal formed a few licensing boards, the Temperance leaders naturally resigned from the boards as members of the trade were taken in.

No beneficial result has accrued from the formation of such licensing boards as the boards have no power to reduce or stop the consumption of intoxicants.

I have been unable to understand the immediate necessity of spending Rs. 3,72,000 for purchasing 5 & 6, Government Place, from the Government of India. The Government of Bengal might have occupied the house by paying rent as heretofore until a fair financial settlement for Bengal had been arrived at.

Let us hope that if the hopes of the Hon'ble the Finance Member be realised by the recommendations of the Statutory Commission granting Bengal a fair and just share of her revenues, the financial benefit so derived would be spent for education and sanitation and not for making provision pursuant to the recommendations of another Lee Commission.

Maulvi HASSAN ALI: Mr. President, Sir, my veteran friends of this House have told me that the budget discussion is a matter entirely of a ceremonial nature and no amount of criticism can move the adamantine hearts of its authors. But yet I wish to speak a few words so that my constituency may not infer my approval of this unjust and inequitable budget from my silence.

Sir, I, for one, cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member for the budget presented to us. From the people's point of view, Sir, the budget is awfully disappointing. From the budget itself even an ordinary observer cannot fail to see that the financial position of the country is horribly bad. The budget admittedly is a deficit one. "The continuing revenue deficit is the most important aspect of the whole budget," says the Hon'ble Member for Finance.

The revised estimate of receipts for the current year is 11 crores 47 lakhs and 46 thousand rupees and the budget estimate of receipts for the coming year is 11 crores 4 lakhs and 54 thousand rupees. The revised estimate of expenditure for the current year is 11 crores 43 lakhs and 56 thousand rupees and the estimate of the next year's budget is 11 crores 76 lakhs and 54 thousand rupees. That is to say, the receipts in the coming year will be less by about 43 lakhs of rupees and the expenditure will increase by nearly 33 lakhs of rupees and the deficit will have to be made by drawal from the closing balance. The opening balance in the current year (1929-30) is Rs. 2,23,09,000. But during the coming year the closing balance will be only Rs. 1,17,00,000, that is to say, the result would be, according to the Hon'ble Finance Member, an inevitable reduction of closing balance by a heavy sum of about a crore of rupees. The revenue of the country is most inelastic and so if things go on in this way for several years more, the Government, I have every reason to fear, will run bankrupt, and the result would be that the poor purses of the people will be attacked by impositions of further taxation and it is no wonder that we will see that these new taxes will come in the form of another edition of newer amendments of the Bengal Tenancy Act or Transfer of Property Act.

The current year's deficit danger was averted, the Hon'ble Finance Member somewhat gleefully says, by the windfall of a sum of 52 lakhs of rupees. But there is no ground to hope that he will have windfalls every year. Windfalls are not normal conditions of things just as whirlwinds are not.

So, Sir, I submit that if we go on drawing largely upon balances at this rate every year, we will soon find that our balances are swept away and the prospect of our financial position is hopelessly gloomy.

3-30 p.m.

We find from the budget, Sir, that in the revenue there is a decline of Rs. 27 lakhs—19 lakhs under "Stamps" and 8 lakhs under "Registration." The Hon'ble Finance Member wants us to know that the fall is due to the amended provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act as there has been a decrease in the number of documents being executed and registered owing to the unfamiliarity of the people with the working of the new provisions of the said Act. He hopes, Sir, that the influences causing a drop may not continue with the growing familiarity with the new tenancy laws and so he further hopes that the effect is temporary and so an increased estimate of revenue is put in the coming year's budget. But, Sir, I am afraid the Hon'ble Member is under a delusion. I submit that chance of increment of revenue under these heads is gone for ever. The exorbitant rate of nazarana

to the zamindars has caused an abnormal fall in the price of lands producing fewer transactions of sales of lands. The Kat mortgages by which the mortgagees were to enjoy the usufructuals of the mortgaged lands in lieu of interests only have gone out and the stamp and registration revenue on this score has, I submit, sustained a permanent deathblow. This calamity has been brought down upon the country by the Government themselves, who by their inordinate love for zamindars have thrusted upon the tenants of Bengal the new tenancy laws in the teeth of their opposition. This much I say, Sir, on the general aspect of the budget.

But when we come to detail heads, we see, Sir, that in the three great nation-building departments of Education, Public Health and Industries there is still the old callous indifferent attitude of the Government.

People are groaning under appalling illiteracy. They have been crying for compulsory primary education. The other day we saw a Bill to the same effect introduced in the Council by Government, but curiously enough not even the slightest reference is made in the budget on the subject by the Hon'ble Finance Member. Are we not to understand, Sir, that the fate of compulsory primary education of the country is sealed for ever? The Hon'ble Finance Member takes pride in saying that the "Expenditure on education on the transferred side has been steadily increasing." He seems to assert with somewhat inner feeling of joy that from Rs. 97,74,000 in 1920-21 the expenditure on education has risen to Rs. 1,30,56,000. But is it a thing at all to be proud of for the most civilised Government of the world. In the course of a decade the educational expenses have increased by a little over 32 lakhs of rupees only, in a country where 4½ crores of human souls inhabit and of whom 90 per cent. is labouring under shameful illiteracy. Sir, during 200 years of British rule only 10 per cent. of the population has been taught in lessons of 3 R's. Will not Great Britain lower down her head in shame to learn this?

Sir, from the huge mathematical jugglery of the budget, I do not find what substantial measures are going to be introduced in the country by the Government in the near future for the prevention of famine and flood, for the eradication of the pest of malaria and kala-zar, small-pox and cholera by which thousands and thousands of Bengal's sons are being carried off every year from her breast. The budget does not show what steps the Government are going to take for supply of drinking water to the people of Bengal. Sir, I speak from my own experience when I say that in my part of the province the people, in order to quench their thirst, have had to extract water out of muds, wrapping them up into *gamchas*. Will not this instance suffice to bring home to the House the seriousness of the problem of water-supply in Bengal?

Yet the Governmental budget does not indicate anything to show that they are going to do something substantial in this respect in the near future. Again, Sir, the budget does not show any signs of sympathy on the part of the Government towards the agricultural progress of the country. We find from the Government statistics that Bengal has got 15 crore bighas of arable lands but of this only 3 crore acres, i.e., 9 crore bighas, are under actual cultivation. In other words a forty-fourth portion of arable lands are lying fallow without cultivation. We have got 9 crore bighas of lands arable and 4 crores of cultivators, and for them the expenditure estimated by Government is only about 12 lakhs of rupees and this consists mostly of salaries, travelling allowances and other sundry luxuries of the Directors and the Superintendents and others of Zoological, Sibpur and this or that gardens and also of costs of so-called committees and commissions. If these even be taken into account as expenditure for agriculture proper, the annual expense per head of cultivator by the Government is only less than half a pice.

Sir, ours is an agricultural country and during one and three-quarter hundred years of beneficent British rule our rulers have finished their duty of imparting agricultural education to the people by establishing here and there one or two experimental gardens (or I should say pleasure trip gardens) or farms and by appointing costly commissions and committees and we do not know what these things have done towards the improvement of agriculture of the country? Has Government established any school for practical training of modern agriculture for the children of the soil during these two hundred years? So, Sir, I do not know how the tenants of Bengal, the tillers of the soil, can support the budget presented to us.

Sir, when the people want education Government says "no money." When medical relief is wanted, Government says funds are short. When people die of hunger and thirst Governmental answer is "we must cut our coat according to our cloth." When industrial improvements are wanted, the Government coffers are said to be empty. But, Sir, may I ask whence does the inexhaustible funds for *Police Budget* come? Coming to it, Sir, we find that Police charges are estimated to be about Rs. 5 lakhs above the current year's revised estimate and 2 crores 15 lakhs 15 thousand of rupees have been estimated to be the expenditure for the ensuing year. We find, Sir, that it is the lion's share of the whole revenue of the province and it is also curious to note that the Police expenditure is double of the expenditure on education and it is also twice as much as the expenditure on general administration of the country. I do emphatically question the right of Government to lavish 1/5th share of the total revenue of the people over this already over indulged police. Sir, when we compare the figures on this head from 1925-26 onwards we find the increase in

expenditure on Police is going up by leaps and bounds every year. In 1925-26 the actual expenditure on Police was Rs. 1,79,45,000. In 1926-27 it was Rs. 1,87,42,000. In 1927-28 it was Rs. 1,85,35,000 and in 1928-29 it was Rs. 1,95,89,000. In 1929-30 it comes up to Rs. 2,10,26,000 and the ensuing year's estimate is over Rs. 5 lakhs above this. So in 5 years from 1926 to 1931 the increase on this head is about 50 lakhs of rupees.

Sir, coming year's increased expenditure on Police is explained away by the Hon'ble Finance Member by saying that the increase is under the District Executive Force where better recruitments have followed in the subordinate ranks and that it has also been necessary to provide better weapons. Sir, may I ask what improvements of the country and its people we can attribute to the credit of this subordinate ranks of these guardians of peace and order? Are we to understand, Sir, that the Police efficiency will so increase as to eradicate the evil of theft and robbery from the heart of Bengal? Sir, I fail to understand what are these better recruitments and better provisions of muskets and guns for? Are we to understand that Bengal is under a perpetual army of occupation of England?

Then, Sir, coming to the head of "General Administration" we find that the budget is about 5½ lakhs of rupees above the current year's revised expenditure. This increase is due, the Hon'ble Finance Member gives us to understand, to the provision for the whole year for three Ministers.

It passes my comprehension, Sir, why the Government is so persistent in thrusting these burdens of ministry upon the poor unwilling shoulders of Bengal. Ministry has been repeatedly thrown out in this House during last decade of Reformed constitution, showing the people of Bengal do not want diarchy. Yet the Government *sid* must have it and the so-called prestige must be maintained.

In this view, Sir, I beg to conclude that the budget presented to us is not at all worthy of receiving any support of the people of our country.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: Mr. President, Sir, we have once more listened to a doleful budget. I am not going to criticise this budget further than the Public Health Department—a department in which I have taken a keen interest in this Council and I regret to say that the Hon'ble Mr. Marr does not give us much hope for increased funds that are absolutely necessary to carry on the essential work for the advancement of public health. I must, therefore, have my annual grouse that has gone on yearly since 1922 regarding the Midnapore Leper Institution. I expected a much larger sum would have been budgeted for this deserving object, and it is

passed over by the Hon'ble Mr. Marr saying that "provision has been made for the completion of a tube-well at Salboni, the site of a projected institution for lepers." Here you will observe some progress has been made, they have actually had the energy to change the name from Midnapore to Salboni and they are going to sink a tube-well. As we have got many new members in this House perhaps the old members will forgive me if I once more go over the old ground. In 1921 a private gift was made to the Government for a Leper Colony. In 1922 I tabled a resolution asking this Council to grant a sum of Rs. 50,000 so that an immediate start should be made with this Leper Colony. The Council passed this resolution unanimously but the chronic hard-up condition of the Government did not permit this money to be paid for this purpose. On February 26, 1924, I again brought this matter up before this Council pointing out that nothing had been done. We have over 1,000 leper beggars in this city and the authorities showed their lack of sympathy in this matter of vital importance, by doing nothing. Again on March 17th, 1926, I drew attention to the serious condition and condemned the lack of action of the Government in permitting this dangerous state of affairs, dangerous from the question of the contagion being spread by the beggars. Money is handled by these unfortunate people, they use the bathing ghats, they even sometimes handle foodstuffs, groceries, clothing, and I again drew attention to this matter on the 1st March, 1926, and as you all know how it has now become a hardy annual. Is it not regrettable that this should be so, because it is a matter of the gravest importance? I have brought it up every year and here we are again. I must confess that this year there is a glimmer of hope—the present Leper Colony Committee have discovered water. Just consider for a moment, gentlemen of the Council, what the position is. It took the previous Committee eight years to look for water without success but the present Committee have discovered it within a year and I am personally much obliged, as also other members of this House, to Dr. Muir who takes a keen interest in the matter and who has shown his energy by having plans drawn up for the Colony along with the Leper Mission. And between the Government and the Leper Mission it will be easy in my opinion to try and get the funds.

I have here a summary of the cost and the necessary method of going to work for the Colony. The Colony is planned on a four years' construction basis. The capital expenditure for the first year is estimated at Rs. 3,31,132 including the expense of the water scheme and latrines and drainage. For the 2nd, 3rd and 4th years it would be Rs. 90,500 each year apart from the additional water and latrine arrangements.

I have with me a list of expenditure which I do not intend to weary the House by reading but I would only point out that it works

out in the first year to Rs. 12,276 for 1,000 patients, to Rs. 92,000 for the 2nd year and to Rs. 10,000 for the 3rd year, and so on, with the result that this expenditure will be very much reduced as patients will be living or working for their own living such as growing vegetables and other edibles.

Now, Sir, something must be done for these men. One reads in the columns of the daily press and also while moving about in the streets of Calcutta the terrible condition under which these people live. I have personal experience of this for the last 25 years, and every one is familiar with the loathsome sight these people present in the streets—people try to get away from them but if you are walking it seems impassable, they are so persistent; they will not be shaken off, they follow you about, exposing their deformities, and if in despair you call a parawalla and ask him to drive them away, still you get no relief, because he is indifferent. Not that I have no sympathy for these wretched men; on the contrary I am perfectly sympathetic towards them and feel for their dreadful condition and am anxious that the condition which puts them in such plight should be removed. It is very regrettable that all these years practically nothing should have been done for the removal of this evil but as I said, Sir, this year there is a glimmer of hope.

I am sure this Council will feel glad that two years ago it gave a grant of Rs. 4,00,000 to help to solve the beggar problem and the Hon'ble Mr. Marr in his budget speech informed this House that an instalment is due next year of Rs. 1,50,000 for the National Medical Institute which has become popularly known as "The Beggars Hospital." This institution admitted last year 380 cases of which less than 25 per cent. turned fatal. Considering the moribund and serious condition in which these cases are found and picked up by the ambulance, the percentage of recovery is very encouraging, and reflects credit on the attending authorities.

The admission of tuberculosis patients in the Wards of this Institute is very dangerous but 33 advanced cases of tuberculosis were admitted last year, of which 13 or 40 per cent. recovered. There is sufficient space in the compounds to build sheds for these patients to segregate them from the other inhabitants at a very small cost, and I here appeal to the House to give its sympathy and help to raise the necessary funds for this purpose.

One must agree that the sum allotted is inadequate to solve the beggar problem but we must be thankful for small mercies, and I am very grateful that a start has been made that will assist to have the beggars removed from our streets. In talking in this House on this subject previously on February 23rd, 1926, I pointed out the difficulties in dealing with this problem. I tried to show a practical method of

prevention. It is a distinctly intricate and trying problem but it has not been taken up in a resolute spirit. I recognise that as long as the city is rich and the public are generously disposed towards these people, so long will you have beggars in your streets. The greater number of these beggars come from outside districts, they are mostly bad cases of leprosy, they are imported or schooled by sirdars and live under the most terrible of conditions. The sirdars import these alien beggars and live upon their earnings. These sirdars are what one may call vampires. India is in many ways a strange country, and its mentality is at times difficult to understand: When the Government give substantial rewards of money for the capture and killing of snakes, people started to breed snakes so that they might get the reward from Government. But when the amount was reduced nobody took the trouble to kill snakes. There we have a complicated and curious mentality to deal with. Here, again, if we go on making gifts to the leprous beggars in the streets it will encourage more and more beggars to infest the streets of Calcutta but if such alms were reduced or discontinued the effect would be otherwise. Therefore this question deserves the most serious consideration. I would suggest that the sums of money that are given away as alms to these beggars by kindly disposed people be pooled in a central organisation, they would thus be able to deal with their money in a more advantageous manner. In this way I think the whole problem might be solved. Thus the halt would go to serais or alms houses, where the food or clothing could be distributed to the indigent persons by the help of these Indian gentlemen who now distribute money or food at their doors so that there will be no overlapping. The people who were really ill and not starving could then be persuaded to go into hospitals for treatment instead of dying in the streets or being brought in a moribund condition to hospital. The lame largely consist of men suffering from lathyrism; they could be given work at stone-breaking or taught some occupation like basket-weaving, mat-making etc., which does not involve moving or crawling about with the aid of a stick.

I call your attention to the fact that the premises at Manicktolla Road, which the Corporation at present have in their possession, could be altered at a little cost for the purpose of beggars' camp, and with little expenditure it could be made into a suitable place. We have a representative Committee of which I am proud to be the President, and we guide the work, and I say without hesitation that a very good beginning has been made and the inmates are very well looked after. One redeeming feature of the Institution is that they have discovered that many cases hitherto considered incurable and maintained as so many burdens on hospitals are being sent here and have been cured by up-to-date proper treatment and careful nursing.

The Government have moved in the right direction by sanctioning a grant to the Jatiya Ayurbijnan Parishad, ear-marked for the construction of school buildings at Entally and thus helping them to increase the number of beds in the Infirmary. As soon as the classes and laboratories of the school now located at Manicktolla are shifted to Entally, the hospital will then be able to accommodate 150 beds.

The maintenance of 150 beds will cost about Rs. 75,000 a year. I wish to impress on the House the fact that unless the Government sanction a suitable recurring grant, the drain on account of the hospital will tell heavily on the funds of the school which the Government are very laudably attempting to develop. The Government contribution to the school building fund was conditional on the Parishad raising a lakh and a half. So the Parishad fund having been depleted to that amount, will be unable to cope with the increasing demand of the Beggar Hospital unless the Government come to their rescue. (Here the member reached his time-limit but was allowed a couple of minutes to finish his speech.) At present the Infirmary is maintained partly by the Corporation, but mainly by the Parishad who draw on the school fund.

Under the circumstances, I hope the Government will sanction a recurring grant. When they asked the Corporation to start a Beggar Hospital, they promised to bear the cost proportionally. I hope and trust that the promise will be kept. A solution of this problem has been found in Ceylon and in Bombay and there is no reason to suppose that Government will not make a grant at all events after the Corporation has given effect to this laudable scheme.

Rai SATISH CHANDRA MUKHARJI Bahadur: Sir, the budget presented by the Hon'ble Mr. Marr has been described by one person as a penury budget and by another as a deficit budget, but one fact stands out clear that our resources are not elastic and there is no immediate prospect of increase in revenue. Therefore I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member for the caution that he has displayed in framing his budget. But one thing to which I must take exception is the manner in which he has divided his proposals for expenditure—half and half between the Reserved and Transferred departments. Transferred departments are called nation-building departments, but, Sir, to justify the name, Ministers must get money and we as non-official members must take strong exception to this division of expenditure. This is further illustrated by the fact that the Police has got an increase of Rs. 5 lakhs while Education, including University, secondary and primary, has got only Rs. 4 lakhs in the matter of increased expenditure. So this division of half and half is not just and fair to the Transferred departments at all.

Then I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Member to the fall in receipts under the head "Excise and Registration." Before the budget was published we people in the mufassal knew that decrease was taking place in the matter of stamps and registration and that the Bengal Tenancy Act was responsible for it. The Hon'ble Finance Member has also mentioned that fact but besides mentioning that he has not suggested to the House any means for solving that difficulty. I however venture to make one suggestion for the consideration of Government.

4 p.m.

We are told in the mufassal that the chief reason for this fall in revenue is not an economic difficulty, but the difficulty of the raiyat who purchases raiyati holdings. He has all at once to pay the price of the land, landlord's fee, a heavy registration and transmission costs. These four things stand in the way of sales. If the Hon'ble Member can devise any means by which these payments can be divided into two stages, I venture to think that this fall might be met and it will help not only the Government but the landlords and raiyats as well. There are many who want to purchase lands but they are not doing so as they cannot find the whole amount all at once for paying the price of the land, the landlord's fee as well as the heavy costs of registration and transmission. Then, Sir, I venture to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture to another fact—the question of agriculture with which the question of unemployment is intimately connected. Though we had a Royal Commission on Agriculture, we in Bengal do not find any new schemes for the amelioration of the condition of the agriculturists or for helping them. We expected that in the budget our Hon'ble Minister would put before the House some schemes for promoting agricultural education by opening new schools of agriculture. Even if he cannot find money for opening new schools, he ought to help those which are existing to-day in Bengal but are suffering from financial difficulties. I can give instance of a private school at Chinsura. It is doing very good work and all persons, whether official or non-official, who visited the school have testified to the good work done in spite of the acute financial difficulties. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture to see if he can help this school.

Next I come to the question of demonstrators. These demonstrators are a very useful set of workers, because they carry the mission to the homes of the raiyats. But their number is so limited that practically the employment of a few demonstrators do not serve any useful purpose. I think their number should be increased. The question of agriculture is a vital one.

Then there is the question of agricultural labour which is acute in the province. It is very difficult to get labourers either in the West Bengal or East Bengal. Now, with the advance of science many new labour-saving instruments are at present available which should solve the problem of labour difficulty. But the question is that the raiyats are not in a position to buy these costly scientific instruments as they are not prosperous enough. I suggest that the Hon'ble Minister might consider ways and means either to purchase departmentally new instruments or to help District Agricultural Associations by liberal grants to enable them to purchase these instruments and hire them out to the raiyats for using them with advantage. This is a matter which seriously affects the successful agricultural operations of this province. My suggestion will at once solve the labour problem and it will also solve unemployment in another way. There is a new class of people coming into existence—men who might earn their livelihood by the use of the new scientific instruments. We have got information that young men of *bhadralog* class are buying tractors and ploughing people's land in the mufassal at a particular rate per bigha. But the question of funds stands in their way. It behoves the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to see that this is a most important question which should be properly tackled. There is another question—the question of agricultural loans. The Agricultural Loans Act is now a dead letter by itself because the cultivators cannot take advantage of it owing to their poverty. It might be said that the co-operative banks serve their purpose but they are not much of a help on account of their numerous instalments which are very close to each other. Unless the instalments are suited to the crop seasons of the year the agriculturists can never take advantage of the existence of these banks and their chronic poverty will always remain the same whether co-operative societies are opened here, there or everywhere. It is a question which requires consideration of the Hon'ble Minister in what way he will solve this chronic indebtedness of the raiyats. Mere opening of co-operative societies or banks will not do. If you open co-operative banks and lend money to people and if you ask them to repay it by numerous frequent instalments, which they cannot do, I submit, Sir, that this is not the way to help the poor raiyats from indebtedness.

Next, I will refer to the question of sanskrit *tolls*, where sanskrit education is imparted. We are very grateful to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education for his kindly visiting a *toll* the other day. But I hope that the visit will bring more grants. The *pundits* in these *tolls* do not charge any fees from the students as is well known. They are a self-sacrificing set of people; but their poverty is also well known, and we expect that the interest which the Hon'ble Minister is taking in these *tolls* will be demonstrated by the provision of more money for sanskrit education and for helping these *pundits*.

There is another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government—I mean the question of union boards. Sir, since the Village Self-Government Act was brought into existence, though the union board budget figures show Government grants for union boards, Government never gave a single rupee to the union boards and I venture to say that there is discontent in various places on account of this. If you want to popularise the union board system in the country, you will have to do it by making grants from Government funds to the union boards. District boards are no doubt giving grants to union boards, but their purse is very limited and practically they cannot give adequate grant. So I submit that Government should show their appreciation of the good work done by the union boards by making small grants to them.

The next question to which I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government is rural water-supply. The question of rural water-supply is engaging the serious attention of the district boards of the province and every board is doing its level best to grapple the problem. There is provision no doubt for giving them loans. I beg to submit that these loans may be granted more promptly than hitherto. The district boards have sufficient credit to repay the loans but the difficulty at present is to get loans from Government. They may pass resolutions but it takes months for the resolutions to reach the Hon'ble Minister, and so I submit that the Hon'ble Minister might see that these loans are granted easily without much waste of time.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government in connection with rural water-supply is that the municipalities of the province always get grants from Government, the condition being that they must raise some money locally and the Government will always supplement it by grants. But the pity of the matter is that the urban portion of the province is getting grant from Government for water-supply, whereas the rural portion—though they are spending lots of money on water-supply, much more money than the urban portion—they are never given a single rupee by way of grant by Government. I submit that the time has come when this policy of discrimination might be reversed by taking this fact into consideration and abolishing this invidious discrimination between urban and rural areas. There is no justification for such discrimination and you cannot give preference to one section neglecting the other. I submit that this is a matter which may be considered by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

One other particular item is the entertainment tax. Sir, it is a very small tax amounting to Rs. 4 lakhs and the question I suggest is whether it is wise to have this tax for the sake of Rs. 4,25,000. I know that when the financial position is bad, the Finance Member is

a bit pitiless even to spare a single rupee. But it must be considered whether mass happiness is not so important as to forego this small revenue of Rs. 4 lakhs for its sake.

I will next mention one or two facts in connection with my district—the district of Hooghly. This is regarding the subdivision of Arambagh which is within 50 miles from Calcutta and is also the headquarters of the subdivision. It is separated by the river Damodar from the district headquarters. The positiou is that men from Arambagh can never come to Calcutta in less than 18 hours although the distance is within 50 miles. This state of things is disgraceful to say the least of it. The question whether there can be any redress is beyond the resources of any local body and unless and until Government come to the rescue of this subdivision the discontent of the people will remain for ever.

(Here the member, having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

4-15 p.m.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD SAADATULLAH: We have been given to hear for several years in the past that the financial condition of the Bengal Government is most unsatisfactory and the budget anticipations of the coming year reflect much more gloomy prospect. The grievances of the people of Bengal are getting more and more acute but no solution has been found to ameliorate them even in a small degree. We are told that schemes which carry recurring liabilities cannot receive any attention and the allotment for those with non-recurring liabilities is also very small. I do not know whether this sort of budget provisions, year after year, can satisfy the people of Bengal. Our education is suffering from want of funds. People are dying for want of good drinking water. Hospitals and dispensaries are closing doors and thousands of human lives are being carried away by kala-azar, malaria, and other epidemic diseases. But alas no sufficient remedy can be expected from the hands of the Government. Funds are available for constructing quarters for Police and Excise Superintendents and married officers in the Lalbazar Police compound, for the purchase of cantonment property for the Eastern Frontier Rifles at enormous costs, but no fund is available for schemes which vitally affect the lives and prosperity of the people of Bengal. Government invites district boards and municipalities to take loans from the Government and improve the supply of drinking water, increases the grants for measures to combat kala-azar and malaria by Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 20,000 only and provides something for education. But at the same time Rs. 2,23,000 has been set apart for payment to the Government of India as purchase price of the cantonment property

which the Local Government was so long occupying under a permission from the Government of India. I believe these schemes could have either been abandoned or postponed for the present in consideration of those which are necessities for Bengali people. It is found that receipt from sale of court-fee stamps has considerably gone down on account of the manner in which the present judicial officers have betaken themselves to summarily dispose of suits and I do not appreciate the reasonableness which prompted the Government to expend heavy sums for extending the court buildings at Alipore, Dacca, Asansol, etc., and manning these courts with extra judicial officers. If financial difficulties do not stay the hands of the Government in lavishly spending money on these heads people cannot accept the plea that their requirements are not properly attended to for want of finance. As for myself I cannot approve of any budget which does not pay more attention to the pressing necessities of the people and I hope that the members of the Council would be disposed to take the same view and amend the present budget in such a way as would conduce to the welfare of Bengal.

Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR-RAHMAN: Mr. President, Sir, the budget of 1930-31 is practically a repetition of the old story we are accustomed to hear about this time of the year. I wonder how a vast province like Bengal with a population of about 45 millions can be served with State expenditure of about 12 crores of rupees. This works out about Rs. 3 per head per year. I wonder how the Government of Bengal has managed all these years to carry on the administration of such a vast population with such a paltry sum of about Rs. 3 per head per year, that is to say, annas four per head per month. It is regrettable to note that the Police absorbs over 1/6 of our total revenue whereas such important nation-preserving departments like Medical, Public Health, Education, Agriculture and Industries do not even all put together cost as much as the Police. In this connection I would like to mention that the Presidency Police, better known as Calcutta Police, costs us about 43 lakhs of rupees, nearly 1/5th of the total expenditure under the head "Police," and this expenditure is supposed to protect about a million of citizens of Calcutta as against the other 4/5 of the total expenditure under the head "Police" covers the protection of 43 millions of poor mufassal people. It is patent from these figures that this huge expenditure under the Calcutta Police includes a very large portion for the protection of properties of the wealthy citizens of Calcutta. It is high time therefore to consider the question of a special police tax on those citizens of Calcutta whose valuable properties need protection. In fact this sort of extra police tax will release large sums for the improvements in pay and prospects of the district police which includes a very large number of ill-paid dafadars and chowkidars. However I must offer my hearty congratulations to the

Hon'ble Finance Member for the increased grant of 4 lakhs of rupees on Education including grants for the completion of Moslem Hall at Dacca and new buildings for the madrassahs. In this connection may I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Education to look into the questions of female education and provide more funds in future on this head, with special consideration about the extreme backwardness of education of Muhammadan girls. I am very pleased to find that the budget for the next year provides for an increase of 53 auditors including two inspectors for supervising co-operative societies. May I suggest to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture and Industries to whom our thanks are due for these new appointments, that at least 50 per cent. of the new auditors should be promoted from the supervising staff of the Central Bank. This will enable the central banks, which are the mainstay of the Co-operative Department to recruit better class of people in their supervising staff. We are indeed very grateful to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health for special grants of 3 lakhs of rupees for the establishment of public health circles in rural areas which will no doubt stimulate public health activities in the villages. Free supply of serum to district boards to deal with epidemics of cattle disease at a cost of Rs. 70,000 will be most welcome to the district boards to stamp out epidemics.

With the present financial position of Bengal and the inequitous Meston settlement in force we cannot possibly expect most pressing needs of the country being attended to. I confidently hope that the Statutory Commission will undo the mischief done to Bengal and provide the relief that we have been eagerly looking forward for the materialisation of urgent schemes in practically every department, such as provision for good drinking water in every village, compulsory free primary education, widespread medical assistance and similar reforms.

Before I resume my seat may I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department to look into the heavy fall of the Government revenue under head "Stamp and registration." The causes of the fall have been clearly explained by the Hon'ble Finance Member in his budget speech.

If there would not have been this huge reduction of the Government revenue under these heads, the money could have been well utilised in the nation-building departments which are the crying needs of the day.

In the interest of the tenants whom I have the honour to represent here and as well as in the interest of the Government I request the Hon'ble Revenue Member to modify the Tenancy Act in such a way so that the interest of the tenants are best served and the normal business of the Registration office may be resumed and thereby Government may get more money to provide funds for the nation-building departments.

[At 4-30 p.m. the Council was adjourned for prayer and it reassembled at 4-40 p.m.]

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I am sorry I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member upon this budget. Bengal is unfortunate in the renewal of the Meston award which created difficulties. My friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Marr was Secretary at the time the Meston award was considered. According to that award it was found that Bengal was able to set apart a surplus of about Rs. 1,04,00,000, out of which Rs. 41 lakhs were given to the province itself for development and other purposes and Rs. 63 lakhs were taken by the Government of India as contribution. But in the beginning of the reformed Council we noticed that there was no surplus but a deficit in the budget. Sir John Kerr, the then Finance Member, could not give any satisfactory reason for this. However, a committee was appointed which represented to the Government of India with no practical result. That was the state of things in the beginning. During recent years only after repeated representation to the Government of India the contribution has been remitted for some time. However, that is not the real difficulty. The difficulty is that revenue is not expanding, while expenditure is always on the increase, and no real improvement can be made without the expansion of revenue or real economy. The Government of Bengal, I am sorry to say, do not care much for economy. I believe economy is a virtue which should be especially studied by the Government of Bengal. At present there are 4 Executive Councillors. Is it necessary that there should be four of them to do the work of the reserved half of the Government? Then, there are 3 Ministers for the transferred departments. Is it necessary that three of them should be there? Experience shows that half the number of Members would be quite sufficient to cope with the work of the whole Government. Then why so much money should be spent for the extra staff? Why should not this money be devoted to the various important departments where expenditure is necessary?

It appears from the budget under review that no improvement in the financial condition of the province could be made on account of the working of the amended Tenancy Act. There may be some revenue in stamps and registration fees, but to my mind I do not think it will be of any good. The real difficulty lies in this that under the present arrangement the purchaser of a holding is obliged to deposit the *nazar* in the Registration Department. Formerly he used to settle amicably with the landlord for the transfer at his convenience and according as he could find money, and very few ejectment suits were filed. To my mind the best course would be to leave it to the purchaser to manage the transfer amicably with the landlord. If that is done, I do not think there will be any difficulty. In this way the landlord also may not take exactions, and I believe even the much vexed question of

preemption will not arise. When the purchaser approaches the landlord, it will not be difficult for him to ascertain the real value of the land, and there is that statutory provision about *nazar*. In that way he will be able to manage amicably with the purchaser. However, Government should see whether there would be any real improvement in revenue under "Stamps and registration fees" by the working of the amended Tenancy Act.

In the matter of expenditure on police, we notice that it is always on the increase and that there is no limit of it. If there is to be increased expenditure on police, why should not crime decrease and be suppressed?

[At this stage a member rose and asked the Hon'ble the President if a quorum was present in the House. A count was taken and it was found that the required quorum was present.]

4-45 p.m.

If there be any need to increase expenditure on police, I think Government should enquire first the real utility of the thing before increasing the expenditure. There are many officers who practically do no work. Under the union board system some officers called the Circle officers are located in the mufassal to see to the village police system. How is it then that crime is still on the increase? If it be so, then a special enquiry should be made as to whether it is not necessary to locate a deputy magistrate in every thana who should see the working of the police personally. It is always the case that whenever there is a crime committed, the tendency of the police is to ascribe it to politically minded people, but in many cases the real facts are quite the otherway.

Similarly, Sir, as regards the Agricultural Department, I do not know if that department is of any utility. What is the benefit the province has derived from that Department? Has the yield per acre increased by the exertions of the Department of Agriculture? Have the cultivators been really benefited by the experiments of the departmental farms? My idea is that instead of experimental farms there should be demonstration farms.

Mr. P. N. CUHA: May I inquire, Sir, if there is any quorum?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not feel inclined to take another count. If, however, I find that on the conclusion of Mr. Chaudhuri's speech there are no members desiring to speak, I will adjourn the Council.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I see, Sir, some arrangements have been made to send some teachers to the Dacca Farm to learn agriculture so that they may come back and teach the boys in high and middle schools something of agriculture but where and how

that would be done I cannot understand. In this connection, I may mention that in Rajshahi the late Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy of Dighapatiya left an endowment of Rs. 2,50,000 about 8 or 9 years ago and the interest of that sum has been accumulating. The executors are also willing to add another lakh to the endowment in order to help towards agricultural training———

[At this stage, the member reached the time-limit.]

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Chaudhuri, your time is up.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: May I have a few minutes more to conclude my speech?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think it will serve any useful purpose to go on speaking before empty benches.

[On a count being taken, it was found that there was no quorum.]

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not mean to cut you off. You may have 5 minutes more to-morrow.

Adjournment.

There being no quorum present the Council was adjourned till 2-30 p.m., on Friday, the 28th February, 1930, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE COUNCIL met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 28th February, 1930, at 2-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh) in the Chair, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly, C.I.E., I.C.S., the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr, C.I.E., I.C.S., the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, KT., C.I.E., the three Hon'ble Ministers and 85 nominated and elected members.

Oath or Affirmation.

The following member took an oath of his allegiance to the Crown:—

Dr. Sir Nilratan Sarkar, KT.

Obituary reference.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Gentlemen of the Council, it is my melancholy duty according to the practice of this Council to offer the last tribute to the memory of Mr. N. B. Gupta, C.I.E., who for about ten months from the inception of the reforms was a nominated member of this Council. Mr. Gupta died of small-pox in Calcutta last night. He was a Barrister and began his practice in Barisal town. He soon became a distinguished Advocate of the Calcutta High Court. He twice acted as Remembrancer of Legal Affairs with the Government of Bengal. In recognition of his services he was made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1913. His last act of public utility was a very liberal donation for the establishment of a medical school at Barisal.

It will be, I am sure, the wish of the Council that an expression of their deep sympathy, and an appreciation of his public work shall be sent to his relative.

I will ask members to signify their consent by rising in their places.

(All the members then rose in their places.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Thank you, gentlemen. The Secretary will please take the usual steps.

Starred Question

(to which oral answer was given.)

Accommodation of Muhammadan assistants of the Secretariat in the Government quarters at Darjeeling.

*99. **Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Muhammadan assistants of the Secretariat deputed to Darjeeling are not accommodated in Government quarters?

(*b*) Is it a fact that all other assistants are so accommodated?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, are the Government contemplating removing this want in the near future?

MINISTER in charge of PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. Faroqui): (*a*) and (*b*) Muhammadan and non-Muhammadan assistants are accommodated in Government quarters up to the limit of accommodation available. One building containing eight seats is allotted to Muhammadans. Those not accommodated in Government quarters, both Muhammadan and non-Muhammadan, are paid house rent allowance in accordance with the provisions of the Darjeeling Allowance Code.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that those clerks who are not accommodated in Government quarters are paid allowance only for the actual number of days that they remain in Darjeeling?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. FAROQUI: The member is referred to Darjeeling Allowance Code.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in Darjeeling houses are not available for a certain number of days and they are only available for a whole season or for a whole month generally?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. FAROQUI: I am not in a position to answer this. I do not know whether houses in Darjeeling are available for the whole season or for a month.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Muhammadan clerks were sent to Darjeeling last year?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. FAROQUI: I want notice of this.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Muhammadan servants are sufficiently available in Darjeeling and whether there is accommodation available for them in Government quarters?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. FAROQUI: We received no complaint.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he knows that Muhammadan servants will have to be provided with accommodation?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. FAROQUI: We have no such information.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact that whenever a question is put in Council it is in the nature of a complaint?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order. I cannot allow this. It is not a supplementary question.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the number of Muhammadan servants that are available in Darjeeling?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. FAROQUI: No.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has gone through the list of servants?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. FAROQUI: No.

Unstarred Question

(answer to which was laid on the table.)

Appointment of a lecturer in the Calcutta University.

79. Maulvi ABDUS SAMAD: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state fully the circumstances which led him to object to the appointment of Dr. N. Sanyal, M.A., PH.D. (London), as a lecturer in the Calcutta University, on "other than academic grounds," against the unanimous recommendation of the University Senate?

(*b*) **Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the traditional policy was one of non-intervention with the internal administration of the University?**

Minister in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Nazimuddin): (*a*) Government are not prepared to give the information asked for.

(*b*) No.

Maulvi ABDUS SAMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*b*), whether any recommendation of the Senate has ever been vetoed by any popular Minister before?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: I must ask for notice.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: On a point of order: When a question has been asked by a member of Council, are the Hon'ble Members or Ministers of Government justified in saying that they are not able to answer or they are not prepared to answer without any reason or justification?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You are raising a point which has already been decided on the floor of this House by myself times without number.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Sir, it has been decided by you that if the answer to a question is not complete, we can ask fresh question———

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order. The member is not right. Members may ask supplementary questions and not fresh questions.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: The rule says that questions shall be asked and answers shall be given. Is not that a compulsory provision?

Mr. PRESIDENT: The answer has been given. I better again explain the rule in question. The rule does not give any power to the Chair to direct the Members of Government to give answers in a particular fashion, and leaves them free to answer questions as they think fit without, of course, infringing any rule.

Mr. BEJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with regard to question 70(*a*), what is the meaning of the words "other than academic grounds"?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: I have nothing more to add.

General Discussion of the Budget.

(General discussion on the budget of the Government of Bengal for 1930-31, was then resumed.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri was in possession of the House yesterday and he may now speak, but I may remind him that he has got only 5 minutes at his disposal.

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: I was saying yesterday that if we develop the resources of the soil, agriculture can be made profitable. Even the experimental farms, which are now not paying, may also be made profitable. The endowment fund of Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy could be utilised in that direction. Two years' course may be adopted and a school may be opened in Rajshahi which will be of great use to the middle class *bhadralogs* as well as to the cultivators. They will be thus able to improve their own resources and soil if they can get sufficient practical training in the school. But nothing has been done in this direction. The proceeds of the fund are now practically about Rs. 14,000 a year and the executors of the fund are willing to allot another lakh in Government security. These two will amount to nearly Rs. 18,000 or over Rs. 17,000, and if some help from Government be given this scheme can be carried out. I do not understand why Government should not accept this proposal, and why they should persist in a different policy. I do not think Government have got no money. Money is there, but Government do not think it should be expended on the lines suggested. For several years the executors are trying to induce Government to utilise the endowment for this purpose. As I have already said, my complaint is that proper attention is not being given to this proposal by the department. Heavy amount is being spent in other directions but no substantial benefit has resulted so far to the poor.

As regards the botanical classes, the proposal is that I.Sc. classes would be opened at Rajshahi. There is a proposal to raise the fee rates in the Science classes. But I am surprised to see that the Rajshahi College though it got an endowment of over Rs. 10,000 for the benefit of the poor should be shabbily treated in this respect. No other college in this province has got such a large endowment. Therefore why not use the proceeds of that endowment for the benefit of the people?

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: Having joined the Council and received the Budget Estimates only yesterday, I shall confine myself to a few outstanding facts which a rapid glance at the figures reveals and specially those which affect Calcutta which I have the proud privilege to represent here.

I find that whereas the revenue has risen from Rs. 10½ crores in 1926-27 to Rs. 11 crores 4 lakhs, the expenditure has grown during the same period from Rs. 10¾ crores to Rs. 11¾ crores and that almost every

year including the estimate for 1930-31, the year's expenditure is in excess of the year's revenue. Sir, whenever they have any occasion to deal with the finances of local bodies, the financial experts of Government take care to impress on the local authorities concerned, the necessity of keeping the year's expenditure within the year's revenue, but it seems obvious that they do not themselves follow precepts which they lay down for the benefit of others.

Of the net increase of Rs. 54 lakhs in revenue during the last 5 years, general administration absorbs Rs. 12 lakhs or a little less than a fourth, Police absorbs Rs. 28 lakhs or more than half the total increase, while Medical and Public Health get only about Rs. 12 lakhs and Education (transferred) Rs. 13½ lakhs. I submit that Government should spend even more than they are doing now on education and medical relief, and less on general administration. In this connection it would be interesting to know what has happened to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee appointed by Government, what was the extent of the economies effected by Government as the result of that Committee's report, and what additional expenditure has been sanctioned from year to year since. It is almost a universal experience that posts are retrenched one year, only to be restored in the following year under the same or a new name, for special enquiries and schemes.

Sir, I find that the estimate provides for an increase of nearly Rs. 6 lakhs, as compared with the figures for 1926-27, from country fermented liquors. I have seen the explanatory note as regards this increase, but as one associated for many years with temperance movement I cannot help expressing my regret at this circumstance. The Excise policy of Government was severely criticised in the Council last year. The Department is under our Minister but notwithstanding this the recent courtesy shown to the Licensing Board Temperance representation, leading to other resignations, is very well known.

The next item to which I would like to draw attention is the revenue of Rs. 16½ lakhs from the Entertainment and Betting tax. I remember that when this tax was first imposed the Corporation of Calcutta represented that they should get a share of this revenue for local purposes as it is derived almost wholly from Calcutta. I am aware that under a schedule to the Government of India Act this tax is allocated to Government, but there can be no question, and I shall be failing in my duty as a representative of the city in the Council, if I refrain from putting forward the claim that on broad grounds of equity, Calcutta is entitled to a fair share of this revenue.

As regards Item XIII—Irrigation—I find a provision of Rs. 3,34,000 in the revised estimates for the current year and Rs. 3,60,000 in the next year's estimate for the reconstruction of six bridges over canals in Calcutta. I for one heaved a sigh of relief

when the Corporation agreed to contribute 20 per cent. of the cost and helped to settle the controversy over this question which had gone on for over ten years. The Corporation laid it down as a condition that in the case of those bridges for which tenders had not yet been called, the estimates should first be sent up to them. They imposed this restriction with the object of spreading the expenditure over a number of years and preventing the reconstruction of all the bridges being taken up all at once, a course which may cause considerable embarrassment to the Corporation. I would like to know if work is going to be commenced on all the bridges next year. I take it that the provision in the budget represents Government's share of the expenditure expected to be incurred next year, and not their share of the *total* cost.

Another point I would like to mention in this connection is that according to expert legal opinion which the Corporation obtained, there was no obligation on the Corporation to contribute towards the cost of the reconstruction of these bridges. But notwithstanding this opinion, the Corporation as a compromise and on broad grounds of equity agreed to contribute 20 per cent., exercising an extraordinary discretionary power given to them under the law, but they laid down that they expected Government to treat them likewise in the matter of some of their claims against Government which the latter had somewhat unceremoniously in some cases turned down. I refer to the Corporation claims for increased contribution for the upkeep of the motor ambulance service, for a proportion of the cost of the Garden Reach survey, for half the cost of the survey of the Bidyadhari river and a few other items.

I do not find any provision for Government contribution to the Corporation under any of these heads. I do not know whether Government have reconsidered these matters. If not, I shall be glad to have an assurance that they will do so with an open mind and with every desire to arrive at a fair and equitable adjustment in the same way that the Corporation have done in regard to their share of the cost for the reconstruction of the bridges.

With reference to the lump sum provision of Rs. 17,000 to meet the initial expenditure for removal to the new Council building next year, it will be of interest to know when the Government expect to have the new building ready and when the removal is likely to be effected and the upper floor of the Town Hall likely to be vacated for the use of the public.

I find a provision of Rs. 36,000 under "Scientific Departments" being mostly for grants to five institutions. I must say that this provision is altogether inadequate for a provincial Government. I can mention several highly scientific institutions in Calcutta devoted to research which are in urgent need of funds. The Corporation can

only help them by remission of rates and are precluded under the Act from doing more. I think that in this case Government must come to the aid of these institutions.

Under the head of Education, I am glad to find a number of capital grants to the Victoria Institution, the Gokhale Memorial Girls' School and the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad in Calcutta. Herein again I must reiterate my complaint that there are many more deserving institutions in Calcutta which are in urgent need of Government aid, and I must confess that the Corporation is aiding some of these institutions by lease of land on nominal rent, remission of rates, direct cash grant, etc., even more liberally than Government are doing.

As regards the Medical budget, I have already stated that the expenditure should be more on medical relief. There is urgent need for more hospital accommodation in Calcutta, it is well known that admission into hospital even for those who are seriously ill and in need of urgent relief is not easy to obtain mainly for want of accommodation. The Corporation have almost trebled their expenditure on medical relief during the last five years and have undertaken their responsibility in this direction to a very much larger extent than previous Corporations were prepared to do, although the previous history of this matter shows that the Government of Bengal are entirely responsible for the provision of adequate medical facilities in Calcutta and not the Corporation. There are still some people in the Corporation who seem to think that medical relief is not one of the primary duties of the Corporation and that an increased expenditure under this head out of municipal fund may mean a diversion of funds from more legitimate and necessary purposes. I do not share this view.

It should be borne in mind, however, that while the Corporation will probably always be ready to supplement the efforts of Government, there should be no slackening of the pace on the part of Government themselves in providing adequate facilities; the Corporation will feel disappointed if, as a result of increased expenditure on their part, Government do not spend as much as they ought to on medical relief.

In page 72 of the summary I find a number of grants to various medical institutions in Calcutta. Among others a grant of Rs. 1,50,000 to the Jatiya Ayurbignan Parisad and another Rs. 50,000 to the Calcutta Medical Institute. I congratulate Government on these wise provisions and hope that in succeeding years also they will find it possible to aid private institutions to the utmost extent of their resources. I find only a small grant of Rs. 7,300 to the Dufferin Fund. It would have been so helpful to the institution if this grant could be substantially increased.

In page 92 of the summary I find another grant of Rs. 23,000 to the Calcutta Muhammadan Orphanage building fund. This is also a

wise measure. There are other similar institutions for the Hindus and other communities and these standing organisations ought to receive every possible help from the Government.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: Mr. President, I am sorry that I should also join the ranks of the malcontents about the budget estimates. I, and men like me, who have come to this Council have done so in the earnest belief that by consenting to come and work the Reforms, we can do better service to the country than by remaining out of it and refusing to work the Reforms. Now it is in that belief that I, and many others, have come to this Council. So far as I can understand, the issue which is now clearly before the country, is whether the country should follow Mr. Gandhi who is offering free salt, or follow those who are dinning the doctrine into our ears to come into the Council and work the Reforms which will, according to them, do more good to the country.

Looking at the budget estimates from this point of view, have we a chance of winning over the country to the cause of the Reforms as against the creed which those who are against the Reforms are preaching? I find the budget estimates disappointing, for the first fact which springs up and hits one in the face, is the demand made on the Bengali to add another Rs. 5 lakhs to the expenditure on the Police. If this were a demand for Rs. 5 lakhs for the Police, I suppose one would not grumble over much, but we find that this little demand for Rs. 5 lakhs is merely the top showing up of a malignant growth in expenditure on the Police which has gone on ever since the institution of the Reforms in this country. I find on a comparison of the figures in the budget of 1919-20, that the revenue of Bengal has remained more or less stationary up-to-date, it has been hovering round about 11 crores of rupees. For example, in 1919-20, it was Rs. 10 crores 94 lakhs, and the Police had out of it Rs. 1 crore 43 lakhs 95 thousand, while the estimated revenue for 1930-31 is Rs. 11 crores and odd thousand, and the Police are going to have out of it Rs. 2,25,43,000, that is to say, between 1919-20 and 1930-31, we have an increase in Police expenditure of nearly ¾ths of a crore, that is 71 lakhs of rupees. This is a curious commentary on the Reforms. This is the period which is covered by Reforms, and during this period we find Government having to spend very nearly three quarters of a crore in order to keep itself going. Is this the fact which I am to put before my countrymen and on the basis of which I am to ask them to come and help to work the Reforms instead of going to Gandhi? I say I cannot. Take this increase in expenditure and compare it with those departments that are concerned with the matter of health, wealth and knowledge, the departments called transferred. There is nothing like a corresponding increase in the expenditure on these departments. We have all heard the various details given by members of this House regarding how niggardly, how

step-motherly, the Finance Member has been with regard to these departments; I am very sorry for him, all his money is being drawn away by the Police. Well, I ask you, Sir, how, with this budget which the Hon'ble Member has given us, am I to go to my constituency and tell them not to listen to Gandhi but to listen to the Hon'ble Mr. Marr? I admit, Sir, that Government has not had a chance of working the Reforms because of non-co-operation; but if you wish to keep in the Council the men who have come in with a will to work the Reforms, if you are going to keep these men and give them strength and support before the country, then you have got to give them an assurance that money will be more liberally spent on the transferred departments as liberally as you are spending on the Police. Of course, I know the inevitable reply of the Hon'ble Member will be "where is the money." Undoubtedly it is the outstanding difficulty, but, Sir, my grievance is that when fresh money is raised from fresh taxation, which it is promised would be devoted to the transferred departments, after the deficit of Government is met, it is not spent on the transferred departments, but goes to those secret places of which the Hon'ble Finance Member knows. But you cannot go on like this, you cannot ask us to come and co-operate, if you do not give us with a more liberal hand. In this connection I am not going to put forward any original suggestion. But I would remind the Hon'ble Member of a suggestion made by Deshbandhu in this Council in 1924, and I submit that the time has come when that suggestion ought to be carried out. He made a suggestion that a loan of Rs. 5 crores should be raised, and pointed out a way of how to provide for a sinking fund and payment of interest, so as to pay off the loan within a period of 20 years. He said "raise a loan of Rs. 5 crores and then divide this money among the various departments called transferred." Now the late Mr. Das' proposal was that when that loan, the fresh money, was raised, all the yield of the new stamp duty and the amusement tax was to be earmarked for the transferred departments, provided the deficit which then faced the Government would have been got over; this was promised by Sir John Kerr. Well, I am afraid this money has all gone, and we shall not be able to persuade the Hon'ble Finance Member to give us all that money back in order to provide for a sinking fund and payment of interest for this Rs. 5 crore loan. But Bengal is not really so destitute; there are ways and means of raising more money in Bengal. I say with some sense of responsibility that I am perfectly willing to give the Hon'ble Finance Member a scheme which will bring in sufficient to pay for a sinking fund and pay interest on this 5 crores of rupees, provided there is a legal way possible, of enforcing on the Government the liability created by its promise to devote the funds raised to this particular purpose. That is where Government gets us into a difficult position. Government raises taxations and says that it will devote them to a certain purpose;

then it does not do this. I think, Sir, if this was done in England, the House of Commons would demand the head of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. However, I should be very happy to place before the Finance Member a scheme for raising sufficient money to provide for this contingency, for a sinking fund and interest to be paid on a loan of 5 crores of rupees, and if he is satisfied with the scheme, then I trust he will consent to raise this money and put it before the Council, and if the Council consents, to devote it to the particular purpose for which this money would be raised. Now, Sir, I had the privilege of submitting a scheme before Lord Lytton in the days when I thought of going into politics. This scheme was placed by Lord Lytton before Sir John Kerr, and so far as I understand from Lord Lytton, Sir John Kerr was not opposed to the scheme on financial grounds, he said it seemed quite sound, but he objected on political grounds. But much water has flowed down the Ganges during these years, and I think the political objections which Sir John Kerr took will not now loom so large in the view of the present Hon'ble Finance Member. What I am suggesting, will I trust, appeal to every British member of this assembly and to my countrymen. I may say that since we are all here against the mandate of the majority of our countrymen, since we are coming here in spite of the command of the majority against our coming here, it is up to us, and more so up to the Hon'ble Finance Member of this assembly, to see to it that this scheme should really fructify into something which would appeal to the people and not merely result in private members drawing Rs. 10 a day and Ministers and Executive Councillors drawing Rs. 5,000 a month. It ought to lead to something more creditable once you have the courage to say yourself that you will raise the money by loan and spend this money on the transferred departments. Make a beginning by slitting open some of the choked-up canals and rivers of Bengal, then the people will begin to see and realise that something is being done under these Reforms. There is another thing I want to say, and that is, that this House now consists of a large number of my countrymen who command respect in their respective communities———

Mr. P. N. GUHA: Please request the member to speak up louder.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: I am sorry, Sir, but this is my first experience of this Council. I am used to speaking to learned judges who prefer that we should almost whisper and not talk loudly. In any case, I hope to get more accustomed to this House, and learn to raise my voice sufficiently to be heard on the other side, to the satisfaction of the members.

My next point is that if this scheme is going to be worked satisfactorily, if the Reforms are going to be worked in any way for the good of the country, the Reforms must be worked by live men, real

men. The Ministers who are in charge of the various departments must be men, not mere fledgings, who have to be taught all the while by the Secretaries how to say "Thank you" very nicely. The House must see to it that we get Ministers who can stand up to their confreres on the reserved side who are very often very tough customers, specially the Finance Member, and unless you can get men who can tackle the Finance Member, we shall not be able to do anything. I would, therefore, make this suggestion to the House including everybody, Britisher, Hindu or Muhammadan, without any distinction, that we should strive, not merely by talk but by devising some scheme by which we can provide for a sinking fund and interest for a loan of 5 crores of rupees as was suggested by Deshbandhu Das, for beginning the initial work in these transferred departments. I submit and I hope that the Hon'ble Ministers will also give their serious attention to this matter, and realise that we have come here to help them, and that matters should be taken earnestly in hand without any further loss of time.

3-15 p.m.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: I should like to say a word at this juncture. I must congratulate Mr. Chatterjee on his maiden speech here to-day and I can assure him that on this side of the House we could hear every word of what he said. I just wish to say now that any suggestion that he likes to make for financial relief will be welcomed by us and I can assure him that we will give it our most serious consideration.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: I am much obliged to the Hon'ble Finance Member.

Mr. P. N. GUHA: Mr. President, Sir, I had been a silent listener to the budget debate during the last six years. I did not take part in the debate so long, not because I had nothing to speak on, but because the atmosphere of the Council during the past few years was such as was sufficient to embarrass the Government from all directions and I did not like the idea of embarrassing them further.

Sir, a lot has been said with regard to the unsatisfactory condition of the budget. This is not a new complaint. The budget had all along been unsatisfactory and this year's budget is not more unsatisfactory than it had been in the previous years. I do not think any useful purpose will be served by abusing the members of the Treasury bench for allotting certain sums here and not allotting certain sums there. That is a matter of minor importance.

Sir, in going through the budget what struck me most forcibly was the iniquitous distribution of funds between the reserved and the

transferred departments. I find that the Hon'ble Minister for Education will make a demand for a sum of Rs. 1,34,71,000 for the education of the whole province. The Hon'ble Kumar will make a demand for Rs. 59,84,000 for the Medical and Rs. 41,72,000 for the Public Health Department. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur's demand for the Agricultural Department is for Rs. 27,93,000 and that for the Department of Industries is for Rs. 13,62,000. All these sums added together give us the total amount of Rs. 2,77,87,000 and that is all that the people of Bengal will be able to get for the nation-building departments out of a total revenue of eleven crores.

On the other hand, the Hon'ble Mr. Moberly who is in charge of the Police, judiciary and the general administration of the province will ask the Council to grant a sum of Rs. 2,15,43,000 for the Police alone, not to speak of Rs. 1,29,90,000 for the general administration and Rs. 1,08,94,000 for the Judicial Department. All these added together make up a total of Rs. 4,54,27,000. It will be seen that while we are spending Rs. 4½ crores for maintaining the British tone of administration, British character of justice and British efficiency of the police, we are to be satisfied in spending only Rs. 2¾ crores for the life, health and education—indeed for the very existence of the people. Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Member would have been shown the door if he had presented a budget like this in any civilised country. Sir, we the co-operating section of the Bengali people have, for the last eight years, been silently watching the progress of the Reforms and it is nothing short of a calamity that the supporters of the Government are being treated like this, specially when out of the seven members of the Cabinet five are Indians. I do not know what our countrymen—our representatives—have been doing in the Cabinet. They will probably say that they are not heard. If that is the case, then their clear duty is to come out.

Sir, no consideration has been given to the great problem of unemployment in Bengal. The number of the roaming young men in the streets of Calcutta are increasing year after year. People are idling away their time in villages and towns after completing their education and yet our Government is not perturbed. They do not seem to care a two-pence as to whether these young men die or live. Then, Sir, the people in their millions are dying of malaria and kala-azar but our Hon'ble Minister for Public Health has not been able to secure anything more than the magnificent sum of Rs. 1,00,000 out of a total revenue of Rs. 11 crores for combating these preventable diseases.

Sir, from the budget it does not appear if any one is taking any notice of the water-hyacinth pest which is ruining Bengal. There is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department with his Chief Engineer, we have a Minister for Public Health with a Director

and we have further a Minister and a Director to look after Agriculture and yet nothing is being done and not a word is being said about the water-hyacinth pest which is blocking the ways of irrigation, ruining the health of the public and hampering the prospects of agriculture. Sir, I would ask these hon'ble gentlemen to go to Eastern Bengal and see for themselves how the situation stands. We had an expert here a few years ago and he was supposed to have shown us the way of destroying the water-hyacinth pest. He took our money and disappeared, no one knows where. Then a special officer was appointed to investigate the whole question and he not only submitted a report, but went from door to door but could not move the Government to do anything in this direction. Whenever the question about the water-hyacinth was raised during the past years, the answer was that the matter was under the consideration of Government. May I know when this consideration will be finished? Will it be finished after the people of Bengal are either buried or cremated and the whole province turned to a desert?

Sir, there are several points in the budget on which a lot can be spoken and the most significant point is that there is no sign of sympathy anywhere in it. Government is going on exactly as it was going on since 1857. Sir, the preamble of the Government of India Act says that the object of the Reforms is to teach us how to govern ourselves but there is no sign anywhere in the budget to indicate any help in this direction from any quarters. Sir, we are dying, we cannot find bread to live on, our children are not getting proper education but nobody cares. Nobody seems to take any trouble in studying the new situation that has arisen in the country. The cry is that the Government must go on as it has been going for years and centuries. Sir, the budget shall never be satisfactory if the whole system and whole outlook are not changed. All that we want is that the Government should be sympathetic and we want them to help us to live and move. We are here to co-operate with them and we want them to extend their hands of co-operation and sympathy. The situation in Bengal is really serious and I want the members of the Treasury bench to realise it. The Ministers who have taken their seats very recently should take particular care to study the pressing problems of the province. This much with regard to the general aspect of the budget.

Sir, I do not want to speak much about different branches of the administration. Yet, I will touch one or two points raised by my hon'ble friend Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur. Sir, I am a councillor of the Calcutta Corporation and am further connected with various public bodies in Calcutta and that is why I am taken by my friends here as a Calcutta man. In reality I am not. I had been a village man half of my life and I hope to be so again in one or two

years' time. As a village man I am raising my voice of protest against the maintenance and improvement of Calcutta with the help of the revenue of the province as a whole. Calcutta is not a Bengali city, it is a cosmopolitan one, and there is absolutely no reason why this city should cost any money only of the Bengali people. I raised my voice against the proposal of constructing the Howrah Bridge with the help of the revenue of Bengal and to-day I do so again against the general upkeep of Calcutta by spending our money. The people of Calcutta do not contribute anything to the exchequer of the province. The rates they pay go to the Corporation and the taxes out of their income go to the Government of India. Why should any portion of the revenue realised from the villages be spent for Calcutta? My friend Dr. Dutt has offered special pleadings on behalf of Calcutta, but he may take it that his city has no right to get any advantage out of the revenue of the province as a whole.

Sir, turning to the Judicial Department, I find the Government has made a provision for installing a lift for the use of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court. I congratulate their lordships for their good luck but I think the Government would have done well if two more lifts for the use of the lawyers and the litigant public were arranged for. Sir, a provision for the appointment of another Presidency Magistrate has been made. This is due evidently to the increase in the number of criminal cases. Well and good, but may I in this connection ask the Government what is the fate of the long-standing question about the separation of Judicial from the Executive function? What about the report of the Greaves' Committee? Nothing is being heard about this matter for long, yet the question was discussed in the Indian National Congress year after year for over 20 years and its solution was indicated in a statesman-like manner by the late Mr. Romesh Chandra Dutt. The next question to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department is the recruitment of the munsiffs. A controversy arose in this connection when the Simon Commission was here. I will perhaps be told by Mr. Moberly that the Government have no hand in the matter and their only duty is to record the decree of the High Court in connection with the recruitment of the munsiffs, but——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Babu SATYA KINKAR SAHANA: Sir, in considering the budget for 1930-31, that has been presented to this Council, I admit that I am fully aware of the prevailing financial condition of the province due to the settlement that we all deplore; and I have little doubt that the Government has endeavoured to make, in the budget estimate, a fair distribution of the expected receipts throughout the various departments of the administration. But, Sir, as I represent a district

which is the poorest in the province—poor in commerce and industry, in a word poor in all the amenities that make human existence possible —my anxiety for my constituency makes me doubtful of the success that that endeavour has attained. I am inclined to think, Sir, that in the distribution in the budget the maximum of cutting the coat according to the cloth has not been very carefully followed and that the saying "out of sight out of mind" played not an inconsiderable part in it. As my unfortunate district lies on the borderland, I fear it has not drawn as much attention of the authorities as it should have done and so it remains in such a gloomy condition that it makes one doubtful as to its forming a part of the British administered province of Bengal. Sir, one particular fault which I find with Government policy as evinced in the budget, is that it neglects the essential fact of village improvement and rural welfare. The problem of Bengal is the problem of its villages; and yet it is the very fact which our rulers are apt to lose sight of altogether. I shall like to illustrate the point from the case of my own district, the Bankura district, and my own subdivision, the Vishnupur subdivision.

With the exception of the three eastern thanas of the Vishnupur subdivision—Indas, Kotalpur and Patrasayer—the whole of the district is part of the Chota Nagpur plateau. Laterite, gneissore and metamorphic rocks, abounding in the country, give it a rugged and undulating appearance. Indas, Kotalpur and Patrasayer thanas are plains of recent alluvium. There are four rivers in the district—the Damodar, the Darakeswar, the Silai or Silabati and Kansai or Kansabati with their tributaries. They are little more than hill streams and are, except in the rains, beds of sand with a trickle of water, rendering little help to agriculture. The area of the district is 2,647 square miles and the total population was found, at the census taken in 1921, to be 10,19,941. The incidence of the population being 385 per square mile in the whole district and it is 345 to the square mile in the Sadar subdivision and 457 in the Vishnupur subdivision. It has been found out in the recent district settlement that though 79 per cent. of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood, only 47 per cent. of the area of the district has been brought under cultivation. The paddy and other crops produced in the district are not sufficient for the population of every one of them is to get two full meals a day. The population is a mixed one, about 8 per cent. being aboriginals—Santals, Kherigas, Koras, Bhumijis and others, living mostly in the jungle lands of the Sadar subdivision. The Vishnupur subdivision, specially the eastern portion of it, is for a long time in the grip of malaria, and the pest has fast been spreading over the Sadar subdivision. The death-rate causing decrease in the population is awful. By comparing the census reports of 1911 and 1921, it is found that the population of the whole district has decreased by 10 per cent.; the decrease is 7 per cent. in the Sadar subdivision and in the Vishnupur subdivision

it is 17 per cent. which is perhaps without a parallel in Bengal. Further, Sir, it is to be found by comparison of reports that the population of the district is less than what it was in 1881. It is, according to specialists, the most unfortunate district as regards leprosy. In the map prepared in regard to leprosy unfortunate Bankura has got the darkest colouring and but for the efforts of some charitably disposed Europeans the fell disease would have tainted many more of the people.

The district, Sir, is divided into two subdivisions—the Western or the Sadar subdivision includes two-thirds of the total area and the Eastern or the Vishnupur subdivision comprises the remaining one-third. This Vishnupur was the central portion of the ancient Mallabhum—the land of wrestlers and the Vishnupur town, one of the oldest, if not the oldest town in Bengal, was the capital of the Malla Rajas. Sir, this Vishnupur was a flourishing country even in the time of Havelock of Black Hole fame. In his memoirs he gives an attractive description of its prosperity, of its paternal Hindu administration, of its pristine Hindu rituals and customs, and of its trade and commerce supplying silk, tassar, *sal* wood, shellac and conch-shells to the British traders for export. But unfortunately after more than 150 years of British administration the condition of the country has become unspeakably deplorable. Industry has almost died out, Tutias—sericulturists—a separate caste in Vishnupur and Muhammadans by religion, have long forgotten their industry and are fast dying out as agriculturists or agricultural labourers, the Kansaries, the Sankharies, the Tantis, the Gandha Banik, the Subarna Baniks who were thriving producers in the past are out of their employment and have been trying to eke out a scanty subsistence from the churlish soil; and agriculture has reached its lowest ebb. The subdivision is gloomy, cheerless, lifeless; it is in the claws of malaria which, as some has said, is an euphemism for insufficient food. Sir, to save myself from the charge of exaggeration I quote from the "Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the district of Bankura" by the Settlement Officer, Mr. F. W. Robertson, I.C.S. On pages 6 and 7 of his note he writes: "The eastern thanas of the Bishnupur subdivision have long been regarded as amongst the most malarious in the province. This unenviable reputation is gradually extending to all the thanas of the subdivision and the same applies to thana Onda. In the whole of this area malaria rages year after year and unless drastic steps are taken to ameliorate conditions there is little hope that succeeding decades will show anything but a continued decrease in the population. It is difficult to understand why malaria should be prevalent in the Vishnupur subdivision where the country is open. The west of the district is healthy, and the town of Bankura has long been famed as a health resort.....Here the undulating country and the laterite soil

afford good drainage, but in the east the soil is alluvial and the country becomes easily water-logged in the rains, and this perhaps accounts to some extent for the unhealthiness of the area.

"It is true that the people have not yet learnt the elements of sanitation or of decent living. The village sites in the Vishnupur subdivision are usually thick with tropical jungle and undergrowth; the houses are closely packed together and are for the most part wretched hovels. The only source of ventilation is the door and even this remains closed during the night. Each house possesses its own little evil-smelling *doba* or tank, excavated to make the foundations when the house was built, and each household cherishes its own manure heap within the compound. A more unpleasant state of living can hardly be imagined, and it is of the first importance that the people should be taught to pay some attention to sanitation and to hygiene. Besides all this most of the villages have to depend on a dirty stagnant tank to provide drinking water, and it is only those who live close to the rivers who are able to obtain good water for drinking. It is, therefore, perhaps hardly to be wondered at that malaria stalks unchecked through the country.

"In the Sadar subdivision signs are not wanting that it is no longer the health resort of former days.

"The people themselves afford a good indication of the difference between the two areas. In the Vishnupur subdivision the people are miserable, emaciated, stunted and suffering from swollen spleen and physically incapable of doing a good work. In the west they are on the whole strong and hardy."

Sir, this description is from the pen of an Englishman, an I.C.S. officer, who visited every village in the district many times over and I hope that shall not be termed as exaggeration of a representative of the people.

The agricultural condition of the district may be well conjectured from the fact that it has been described as a "famine district." Years of famine or scarcity are of regular recurrence here. Famines ravaged the district in 1866, 1884, 1897, 1907, 1915, 1918. From 1918 to 1929 there were three or four years of scarcity in parts of the district. The causes of such frequent famines and scarcities are not far to seek. Though the country is mainly agricultural, 19 per cent. of the people entirely depending on the soil, which is poor and wanting in the power of retaining water, no irrigation scheme has, since the beginning of British administration, been adopted by the Government to improve the situation. Our forefathers took to the *band* or tank system for irrigation. They constructed innumerable reservoirs for depositing the surplus rain water for irrigation and they proved very beneficial in the beginning; but as they have in course of time been silted up the

volume of water they contain at present is quite inadequate for irrigation. It is much to be regretted that nothing has been done to get the tanks re-excavated. The only irrigation canal in the subdivision is the Subhankari *daura;* it is about 20 miles long and was constructed by Subhankar Ray, the great Bengali mathematician and the Dewan or Minister of the Vishnupur rajas about two centuries ago. It has brought under cultivation about 75 square miles of highland. It would have long been obliterated had not Messrs. Mainsty, B. De and Cook, all Collectors of the district, taken steps to get some repairs done to it with funds collected from subscriptions and with famine funds. As the Subhankari *daura* is the only irrigation canal in the subdivision serving the useful purpose of irrigating so vast an area and as it is connected with the name of Subhankar Ray whose mathematical formulas are still in daily use in every household and every *patwari* in Bengal, it should have long been taken up by Government for repairs and maintenance. It is much to be regretted that it has not been done. I would venture to suggest that some provision should be made in the present budget for its repairs this year and it be taken up for future maintenance.

As regards roads in this subdivision, specially in the easternmost thanas, they are almost non-existent, except *bhagars* or traces of roads existing during the Hindu rulers. These *bhagars* serve as footpaths or cart tracks during the dry season, but during the rains it is practically impossible to reach these villages on bullock carts, bicycles or horses; wading through knee-deep mud is the only process then by which these villages can be reached. I know of cases when anxious parents could not for their dying sons and daughters secure the services of a medical practitioner residing at a distance of three miles, even by offering four times his regular fees. Mr. F. W. Robertson, in his Settlement Report, has remarked: "In the Vishnupur subdivision the soil is clayey and sandy and after a heavy fall of rain the *kutcha* roads become impassable for bullock carts, the help of coolies being necessary to enable them to progress at all." He further remarks: "It is clear that in times past the east of the district, which is really the most important part, has not received its fair share of attention or inspection from Government officials, nor, without better facilities for touring, can it expect to receive its fair share of attention in the future."

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit and resumed his seat.)

3-45 p.m.

Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Mr. President, Sir, the speech with which the Hon'ble the Finance Member has introduced the budget, a copy of which speech has been circulated to all of us, is I think the best commentary on the budget itself—the budget which lacks in

interesting features on which I would like to speak at length. The same old story of financial stringency followed by heavy deficits, and drawing upon the fastly depleting closing balance, and parsimoniousness even to items of expenditure which brook no delay reappear in the next year's budget as in the past. I must say that Government have done their best to distribute the dole fairly and squarely to all the departments, and I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member for the even-handed way in which he has done so.

The first item of expenditure in the budget is Land Revenue. I find that almost the same amount has been provided for survey and settlement operations under this head of expenditure as in the current year's budget. I have never hesitated to raise my voice against this item of expenditure since 1921, because I have failed to appreciate its benefit. It has set tenants against tenants, landlords against landlords, and neighbours against neighbours. This is the only result of the survey and settlement operations. People incapable of deciding the question of title in lands are entrusted with this work. I am sorry to find that the presence of Indian members of the Executive Council at the helm of affairs for the last few years has not brought about any change in the policy of survey and settlement operations of Government. Perhaps they are only obliged to lend their names to a policy enunciated by the most theoretical and unsympathetic administrators, and the result is inevitable.

The next item of expenditure is Irrigation. My friend Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur has spoken about the bridges on the Circular Canal and Tolly's Nala. It is a matter of sincere satisfaction that Government, the Calcutta Improvement Trust, and the Calcutta Corporation, have at last arrived at a solution of this question and agreed to make their proportionate contributions to the construction of the bridges. They will improve the amenities of Calcutta and help the expansion of the city. One of the only two items of original work under that head Irrigation, is the Damodar Canal; on behalf of the people of Burdwan I must thank Government for this scheme. When completed it will be of immense benefit to my constituency. (Question). Of course, I am not an irrigation expert and I do not venture to question the wisdom of this scheme, but as a layman I can only say that this scheme will irrigate thousands of acres in Burdwan, and I request the Government to expedite its completion.

As regards the ravages of flood on the western side of the Damodar river, I think the most effective remedy is the silt clearing schemes. The Muchihana scheme is now complete, and the Government have not undertaken any other scheme. These schemes are very useful, and if the Muchihana scheme proves useful, I hope that the Government will undertake several such schemes in the near future.

Turning to the head General Administration I find that the expenditure has increased by Rs. 64,000 on account of the appointment of the third Minister. Of course, it is the prerogative of the Governor to appoint Ministers and I think I have no right to question it here; but if Bengal could manage with two Ministers for the last six years, I should like to know on what principle the third Minister was appointed. In this connection I should like to make it clear on behalf of the members of the People's party that we do not want to give any communal interpretation to the appointment of the third Minister. Any attack on the Ministers on communal grounds will have no support from this side of the House. If the Ministers are capable, they will have our support, and we shall not support or oppose a Minister merely because he is a Hindu or a Muhammadan.

The provision for law charges is almost the same as in the current year. In this connection, however, I would like to say a few words. This is the second chance which the non-Swarajists have got to work the constitution and co-operate with the Government and I would request the reserved side of the Government to give us and the Ministers every facility to do so. Of late we find that the Government are indulging in unnecessary prosecutions. The Government which are inclined to tolerate the declaration of independence, the Government which are prepared to put up with public demonstrations, condemning them, are prosecuting people for speeches delivered at street corners. The reserved side of the Government cannot be touched under the present constitution, but the Hon'ble Ministers will have to pay for the sin of their colleagues. Therefore on behalf of the co-operating section of this House I would ask the Government that they should not do anything which would put the members of the co-operating section of this House and the Ministers in an embarrassing position.

The next item of expenditure is Police. Of course, the expenditure here is increasing as was pointed out by my friend Mr. B. C. Chatterjee and I think he said the last word on the subject. I do not grudge the expenditure provided the efficiency is also increased with increased expenditure. I, however, find that the figures for crime are also gradually increasing. I quote here from the Administration Report of the Calcutta Police:—"The figures of increase are 40 per cent. in the case of burglary and over 30 per cent. in the case of theft." So also is the case with the Bengal Police: the position is no better. The number of cases of theft is 15,699; and as compared with the figure of 1927, burglary shows an increase by 219, dacoity also shows an increase by 802. So, admittedly Sir, the efficiency of the Police Department has not increased with the increase in expenditure.

The next head of expenditure is Medical. I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister and would request him to make more

liberal contribution to the leper hospital at Ranigunge. Rev. Mr. Ross is doing very good work there. It is really a work of great self-sacrifice, and I would expect the Hon'ble Minister to pay him more liberally to enable him to carry on the work.

As to the grant to rural dispensaries, it is only Rs. 80,000. It is a paltry sum and should be increased. The other day the Hon'ble Minister in reply to a question of mine gave me some figures about the death-rate in Bengal from malaria and he knows best how appalling they are. I have got the figures here, but I am not going to trouble the House by quoting them. I also request the Hon'ble Minister to make a more liberal contribution to the Carmichael Medical College. The grant was Rs. 20,000 last year, and the same figure appears in the next year's budget. Of course, it is not necessary for me to give a certificate to the Carmichael Medical College. The Hon'ble Minister paid an official visit to the college the other day and I hope he is satisfied with the nature of work that is carried on there, and I think he would admit that the College has every right to demand more money from the Government.

4 p.m.

Turning now to the Department of Agriculture, I find that only Rs. 13,000 has been provided for the improvement of cattle. This sum is ridiculously low. Most of the funds provided for under this head is consumed by salaries and no sufficient provision is made for research and experimental work. What we really require are experimental farms in every thana if not in every union and I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge will try to provide at least every thana with an experimental farm.

The last item to which I would like to draw attention is the purchase of premises Nos. 5 and 6, Government Place at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs. Sir, I do not think this item of expenditure can be justified under the present financial condition of Bengal.

Mr. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan): Mr. President, Sir, I had no desire to participate in the general discussion of the budget to-day especially when I find that the present discussion is of a general nature and is a relic of the time when hon'ble members of the Council had no voice in the framing of the budget and also in the voting of grants. My only apology for participating in the discussion to-day is that I feel that this budget has been presented at an opportune moment to raise the question of a few readjustments of the financial condition of the province. Sir, the Simon Commission is soon going to publish its report, and it behoves us to consider fully the question of financial readjustment now. From

the very inception of the present system of Government—I mean since the Meston award—we have been smarting under a great injury. We have been, from the very first Council under the Reforms, faced with a deficit budget every year and we had to pass certain taxation Bills, and from that time our Government—we must give credit to the Hon'ble Member who is in charge of finances of the province—have always been alert and have always taken all opportunities to represent our case to the Government of India. Representations have been sent to the Government on many occasions to get something out of them for expenditure on nation-building departments; but the result has always been sadly disappointing. And all that we have got out of these representations is only the remission of the contribution of Rs. 63 lakhs used to be made by the Government of Bengal to the Government of India. Now, Sir, when the final adjustment of our financial relation takes place it is necessary that we should arm our representatives—the members of the Treasury benches—with all the powers so that they may negotiate for better terms in future. Sir, it is very inequitous—nay it is rather criminal—that a province which raises *per capita* more revenue for the Government should be left without adequate resources to carry on the necessary development in the nation-building departments of the province. Every day we want money for education—we want money for agricultural reconstruction —we want money for co-operative movement. For a time Government says—and says rightly—that there is no money and you should carry on as best as you can with the resources available. Sir, I personally believe that in any future readjustment of financial relation—I mean when the question of financial adjustment of the country comes in—the provincial Governments should be made responsible for raising all funds in the province and they should make a contribution of certain percentage to the Central Government to carry on their work. The percentages of these contributions will be different and they will have to be fixed according to the taxable capacity of each province as well as to the necessity of money for the financial reconstruction of the province. But I think that the ultimate power of raising the funds should be in the hands of the provincial Government.

Then there is another point on which I would like to lay some stress and that is there is no need using any denunciatory language towards the budget that has been presented. Under the present circumstances the budget could not have been anything better, and I think the Hon'ble Finance Member has done the best that he could under the present system. What we find is that Government up to now have not been able to adjust themselves to the present situation. I mean whatever Government might have done in the past after the solemn declaration of the Parliament in 1919, to grant responsible Government in this country, it is now necessary that we must realise the implication of that declaration. Sir, whether for good or bad,

we are committed to a policy of a democratic form of a representative system of Government. There are many of us who would say that that system is not best suited for this country. Well, let them say what they like; but we must look facts squarely in the face, and shape our future policy in relation to them. The implication of that system of Government means that there should be an introduction, as soon as possible, of adult franchise in the country. Adult franchise means, there must be compulsory education and along with compulsory education there must be all kinds of physical training with a view to conscription in time to come. But our rulers have not yet been equal to the task in this respect. They have not realised the implication of those things and, therefore, what is at present necessary is that there must be a full change in the angle of vision. There should be a radical structural change in the system of budgeting if we want to carry on. Well, Sir, whenever we come for money it is thrown to our face: "If you want expansion pay us more money." Sir, we are ready to pay more money. It is also said that other countries pay *per capita* more taxes than we do here. Probably it is true; but the burden of taxation in relation to income in those countries is much lighter than it is here. Therefore, if we want to improve our financial condition what is necessary is extensive education and intensive economic reconstruction, without which we will not be in a position to raise more funds to carry on. Sir, in this connection I must congratulate Mr. Chatterjee for all that he has said about the alarming rise in police expenditure and expenditure on general administration. Sir, I yield to none in my determination to see law and order maintained in the country. But Sir, everything has its price—law and order has its price also, and we are not prepared to pay more than is necessary. We want peace and order and all other necessary things in order that the people of this country might fit themselves better to take a prominent part in the battle of life and raise their country to a position which is legitimately her due. But if you put too much burden it will kill us outright. What is necessary now is, as has been suggested by Mr. Chatterjee, we should raise a capital loan for a full reconstruction of the economic condition of our countrymen. We want extensive co-operative organisation. If the people of this country are to carry on and raise themselves to be equal to the people of other countries, it is necessary that the poorer workmen, industrial as well as agricultural, should get easy credit so that they might be able to keep their income to themselves. Speaking about mufassal—there are places where an agricultural labourer has to pay cent. per cent. and sometimes even 150 per cent. as interest. If one has to pay that amount of interest, you cannot expect him to be in a flourishing condition. We want that the co-operative movement should spread. At present the condition of the department is very very unsatisfactory. We want capable men at the helm of affairs so that they may direct

the movement in the right direction. In this connection great responsibility rests on the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. He must be a man of first class brains. I believe the co-operative banking system should go out of the hands of the Secretariat. I think my friends of Clive Street will be surprised to learn that a bank dealing with a big amount of Rs. 7 crores is run by a Registrar who spends more than half of his time in the mufassal and there is a manager who takes orders from the Registrar. Can there be any improvement under such a system?

Sir, as regards agricultural reconstruction what we find in this country is that whenever we propose anything Government appoints committees which go on merrily in special trains and have lunches and dinners and then write reports which are sometimes disappointing or illuminating. But the result is that Government take these reports into consideration and take years to decide on the lines of action and by the time they decide on certain lines of action the reports become old and useless. What we want is that the present Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture should launch an intensive scheme for the amelioration of the agricultural population of the country.

Another point, Sir, and I have done. If any country is to rise in this world it has to be greatly industrial. There must be a great deal of industrial development in this country. Agriculture takes one-third of the time of the agriculturists and they should utilise the other two-thirds in industrial pursuits. In this connection I would make one observation and it is this: there are a large number of industrial enterprises in this country which are dying out for want of patronage from Government. There are many industries here; but the pity is that when any Government order goes, it goes out of the country and even if it goes to the country it goes out of the province. My suggestion is that in cases where industrial products are available in the province and where industrial concerns are run by men of this province, preference should be given to them in all Government purchases. With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. SARAT KUMAR ROY: Mr. President, Sir, enough has been said by my friends who spoke before me of the inability of the Government to find money for nation-building transferred subjects, while on the other hand there is no lack for it if it be necessary for its pet ones. No particular purpose will be served by decrying the Government that way. My object of standing to speak is to show that even if the Government be partly supplied with funds from outside it refuses to accept that on the same plea that it is still unable to meet the residual expenses from its till. I mean the case in which Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy of Dighapatiya, has left a legacy of the face value of two lakhs and fifty thousand rupees in Government Promissory

notes, to attach agricultural classes to Rajshahi College for the benefit of the people of Bengal. In these days when agriculture is being lauded so much and is being considered as the panacea for all ills of India, even in the highest circles, and when unemployment and consequent unrest among the *bhadralog* classes are engaging so much attention, both of the Government and of the public, this handsome offer ought to have been thought as a boon by the Government. But instead, the Government began to see bogey in this legacy!

4-15 p.m.

Sir Provash Chunder Mitter when he was the Minister of Education, for this legacy has been made available so long ago, was for accepting the money but difficulties arose, and Sir Provash in spite of his earnest desire to accept the endowment, was unable to do so. Since then interest has accumulated and the trustees of late Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy of Dighapatiya have added a further sum of the face value of one lakh of rupees in Government Promissory notes so that the total is now rupees four lakhs. But, Sir, I regret to say, the Government is still unable to see its way to accept the foundation on the plea that there is no money to be found to meet the residual expenses. Sir, the Government has however found money as I find in the present budget to start botanic classes for the I.Sc. students in the Rajshahi College, and for which step we people of Rajshahi are very grateful, but no promise is held out that agricultural classes will be the ultimate goal. So Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy foundation still goes abegging. The trustees and the people of Rajshahi waited on successive Ministers of Education and the Directors of Public Instruction and even on His Excellency but still the prospect of agricultural class for Rajshahi College seems to be as far off as ever.

In this connection it may not be out of place to mention that though Rajshahi College has been given the botanic classes, side by side it has been proposed to raise fees of the science classes as I find in the present budget. Only a short time before the fees have been raised in spite of loud protests of the Rajshahi people against the measure and the people of Rajshahi had good reasons in support as my venerable friend on my right, I mean Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, the G. O. M. of Rajshahi, has already pointed out. And now, Sir, again it is proposed to further raise the fees! There would have been perhaps some justification, Sir, on the part of the Government in the proposal of raising fees of the science classes if instead of starting the botanic classes, the Government had at once started the agricultural classes, by accepting the Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy foundation of four lakhs of rupees, as the Government was unable to meet the recurring charges. I appeal to the House to consider these cases when considering the budget.

Mr. F. V. RUSHFORTH: Mr. President, Sir, it seems to me that far too much discussion on the budget has been devoted to criticism of the ordinary revenue and expenditure heads. For that reason I have heard with much pleasure one or two speakers this afternoon who emphasised the importance of considering more carefully the loans portion of the budget. It seems to me that this is the portion of the budget which the House and the Finance Department will agree with me is for the benefit of Bengal generally. We know, Sir, that our revenue is definitely limited. We cannot help that. It is due to the Meston settlement. I was disappointed with the remark in the budget that having waited patiently for 10 years we must wait for another year in the hope that something may be done. I do not think that anything more can be done now with the revenue part of the budget. I can only congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member that he has managed to carry on without imposing further taxes.

As regards the loans portion of the budget I quite agree with the speakers who have stated that it is absolutely necessary for the economic reconstruction of Bengal that we should consider raising a large loan. The only point on which I wish to differ is that the loan must be definitely for productive purposes. I see in the budget that Rs. 50,00,000 have been borrowed from the Government of India of which about Rs. 12,00,000 is for the Council Chamber and Rs. 15,00,000 for the Bally Bridge. What I would suggest is that that amount should be increased very considerably for the purpose of building other bridges and for spending on other productive works. The Finance Department have no doubt had placed before them various schemes for road development in Bengal and for the development of communications generally. I think that it is on these lines that we should encourage them to embark of a policy of capital expenditure.

There is another reason why I think capital expenditure is the most appropriate one for consideration. We are passing through a period of very serious trade depression. Calcutta is suffering with Bengal, Bengal is suffering with the whole of India and India with the rest of the world. I think, Sir, it is up to the Bengal Government to endeavour to mitigate the depressions to some extent and I think they can do this in Calcutta and in Bengal by a forward policy of capital expenditure. For that reason, I think, we should concentrate immediately on the possibility of raising a large loan for road development and for the development of other productive works. I know that the question of provincial loans is very closely allied with that of the loan policy of the Government of India and that is another point on which, I think, the Government of Bengal might have something to say now. We know that during the last few months the Government of India have borrowed money, no doubt in accordance with a definite policy of controlling monetary conditions in the country.

But the fact that they have been able to borrow crores of rupees for unproductive purposes seems to me to be of some encouragement to Bengal should they try to raise a large loan for productive purposes. For that reason I suggest that Bengal might go into the market for a large loan for definitely productive works. We know that there should be a small income in the coming year's budget from the new road fund which might be capitalised and would be a beginning to work on. I think we should take some risk and increase very largely our capital expenditure during the current year because that is the only side of Bengal finance in which we can do anything on progressive lines and also because I think it must help, in many ways, to alleviate the present trade depression throughout Bengal. It would certainly be a practical and useful step to take.

(At 4-20 p.m., the Council was adjourned for prayer and it reassembled at 4-30 p.m.)

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. President, Sir, the presence of many of the Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council and the Ministers leads one to hope that budget speeches may receive some attention; although as a matter of fact these speeches of ours, other than being of use to us at the time of the elections, seem to serve no useful purpose, for Government with its schemes goes its own way and we with our hopes go another. I shall, therefore, refrain from indulging in political platitudes with regard to education, sanitation, malaria, water-hyacinth, police and such well-worn subjects. I will even forego the temptation of having a dissertation on the iniquities of the Meston award, for I share in the hope of the Hon'ble Member that there is some justice somewhere which will some day come by its own and rectify a settlement so disastrous to Bengal. The persistence of the Bengal Government and of ours, must have its effect, although we have to contend against the injustice and the selfishness of other provinces and the rapacity of the Government of India. I think that Bengal's plaint has after all reached the right ears and touched the right chord in the heart of right-minded men and even the Government of India is prepared to speak in our favour. Some two or three years back when I happened to be in Simla, an Hon'ble Member of the Government of India spoke in very eulogistic terms of a most able speech delivered by Mr. Swan in the Council of State on behalf of Bengal in regard to the award; and he said that in his opinion no representative of the people, elected or popular as he calls himself, could have made a more vigorous defence for Bengal than Mr. Swan did. I am sure that that speech has had an abiding effect and further the keen intellect of Sir John Simon and the acumen of Mr. Leyton must have discerned the extreme poverty and misery of our exchequer. Nevertheless I should be glad if a quasi-official were

to compile for our future guidance and possible future wars all available information with regard to the budget of the various provinces and of the Government of India, not merely with a view to sources of revenue, not merely to consider the possibility of an expanding income, but to show how Bengal has to stint itself in its necessities, when other provinces wallow in a financial surplus. On the question of raising a loan, did I hear a member representing the Bengal Chamber of Commerce advocating it? I wonder if he would subscribe to it himself. I wonder if he would advance me money if he knew that my expenditure was greater than my income, although the funds supplied by him might serve to increase my earning capacity. The question of a loan for production purposes was raised by no less a person than Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and was turned down by Government as there was no prospect of paying it off from revenue or anticipated savings. Where there is no surplus, you cannot set apart funds for interest and sinking fund. At this stage of our discussion I should like to touch upon one or two matters in hopes that the presence of the Hon'ble Finance Member and the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government implies an interest in our proceedings. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Hon'ble Member for Irrigation for the assurance he gave me that he has more than noticed the presence of Sir William Wilcocks in our midst and that he will be glad to avail himself of his wide knowledge, experience, enthusiasm, energy and genius. It is not necessary for me to explain to the Council at this stage that the overflow system of irrigation is the basis of Sir William Wilcocks' irrigation policy. I need only point out that his schemes are heartily approved and endorsed by the people of Bengal, by those who have suffered from the apathy, the negligence and ignorance of the Irrigation Department. The haphazard schemes of that department which depend to a large extent on higher and higher embankments, on sluices that are never opened, on the sale of water, on the drying up of canals and river, and on the construction of new canals at enormous cost on the principle of perennial irrigation, and on the construction of canals across the natural drainage lines of the country stand self-condemned from the evils that they have wrought. I revert to this in passing because I think that the Irrigation Department has been endeavouring to draw a red herring across the trail when considering the scheme of Sir William Wilcocks, and has deliberately attempted to belittle it and classify it as a totally impracticable scheme. It is not necessary for me to speak of the indiscretions of the Irrigation Department, although a recounting of them will form a very interesting book; it is enough for me to say that had the Chief Engineer had his way with the Hon'ble Member, and I congratulate the Hon'ble Member in not failing to exercise the energy, the independence and the commonsense for which he is held in esteem; had the Chief Engineer had his way, Serajganj and Noakhali were doomed, and this part of Bengal would have been converted by

the Grand Trunk Canal into a swamp. I revert to it for one reason more, the Irrigation Department is a department to which little attention has been paid hitherto for fear of persons dabbling in technical details, yet it is the department which is the most important for us, in which as a matter of fact all the available resources of Bengal ought to be thrown, for with it is entangled the life and death of the people. Now Mr. Addams-Williams has produced many minutes, has written several reports but has never had either the condescension, or, more likely, the confidence to make these minutes public. On Sir William Wilcocks' scheme, Mr. Addams-Williams has produced a confidential report, and it is necessary that we should see and examine it, and once and for all this disastrous tug-of-war between the two schools of thought settled. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Member to place on the table the documents of the Irrigation Department marked "Confidential" which are of such paramount importance to our destinies. I will also request the Hon'ble Member to consider seriously whether we should not take more advantage of Sir William Wilcocks' presence in our midst and entrust him with the task if he will be so good for the sake of the dying millions of Bengal to accept it, of comprehensively writing a report on the irrigation system of Bengal past, present and future. No money spent on this will be money wasted; on the other hand it will come back to us a millionfold.

Now I come to the Department of Industries and Agriculture. This is the backbone of our wealth; intensive attention must be paid to it; agricultural education is more necessary even than primary education, and we must strive for a combination of the two; cottage industries and industries requiring small capital must be encouraged, decayed and dying industries must be revived; schemes are put up by the inventive officers of the Industries Department but nothing is done or can be done for want of funds. I understand that the Hon'ble Minister intends to introduce some Bills to run industries on co-operative lines. In view of our poverty, even this is welcome and will give some relief.

In the department of labour, Government must be more active. The Labour Commission has impressed us most favourably and we are anxiously waiting for its report. In the meantime, and as a first step, Government may well attempt to establish co-operative credit and supply societies in the mills near by. I am sure the Scottish lairds of the mills will help; and if they do not, there are some of us prepared to offer our co-operation.

Forest is a growing department or should be one. It is a perfect shame that forestry is not practised scientifically here. I would humbly offer a suggestion that research scholarships should be awarded for forestry and students sent to Europe, preferably to Germany where the cultivated forests of the Spessart and of the Schwarzwald are the wonders of the world.

May I, on behalf of the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage, with which I am closely connected, thank Government most profusely for its grant to the Orphanage? It was promised years ago after the disaster which overwhelmed it; the promise has borne fruit this year. As expected, Dr. Haridhan Dutt has struck a note that there are Hindu institutions also in need of funds. We do not deny it, but we hope for their sake that they will not qualify themselves for this grant by the collapses of their buildings and the death of their inmates. I hope for the sake of the community of Dr. Haridhan Dutt that his will never fall to the level of ours and stand in such dire need of help. The Orphanage is greatly in need of funds. I hope in course of time, it will be a great institution, and that Government will continue to assist it with its advice and its patronage.

I now desire to call the particular attention of Government to the distress in Brahmanbaria. The condition there is well known to the Hon'ble Minister for Industries. The relief granted is negligible, and I would request Government to consider the early feasibility of opening relief works before it is too late.

Before I finish may I, in more than formal terms, congratulate the Hon'ble Member on producing a readable budget speech. We realise that in his expenditure he is limited by his means, we wish we could have got more, but at the same time we desire to assure him that the esteem in which the Council has always held him increases with the passing of years. We wish both him and ourselves a more hopeful future.

Rai Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT Bahadur: May I rise on a point of personal explanation, Sir? When I made my remarks about the demand for the Muhammadan Orphanage nothing was further from my mind than any thought about communalism and my friend Mr. Suhrawardy who is always full of communalistic sentiments has naturally read it also in my speech.

The Hon'ble Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: I congratulate the hon'ble members of this Council who have taken part in the general discussion on the budget. Sir, the debate has been very interesting and of a varied character. We had speeches from the idealists and the dreamers with their fantastic schemes. We had also the despondent notes from the pessimists.

Sir, there have been some complaints about the water-supply grants. I wish it were possible to make a bigger demand. But we have to take into account the financial condition of the Government as also the relative importance of the demands in the other departments of the Government. Considering these points the Government can hardly be

blamed for the smallness of the amount asked for. (Question, Question). Sir, we are now spending much more on water-supply than what we had been doing in the past. We have specially provided Rs. 2,50,000 for grants on rural water-supply and about Rs. 2 lakhs on urban water-supply. Besides these, we have made a provision in the budget for a loan of Rs. 6,00,000 for rural water-supply on an easy rate of interest and we have also earmarked about a lakh of rupees for loans to urban areas. It will thus be seen that we have set apart about Rs. 12 lakhs specially for water-supply. Besides these we are making an augmentation grant of about ten lakhs of rupees to district boards; though we have not specially laid down how much of this is to be spent on water-supply it is intended that a large portion of this amount should be spent for this purpose.

Sir, a member has made a grievance of an invidious distinction having been made between the urban and rural areas in the matter of making grants to them for water-supply. It has been said that Government contribute one-third of the expenses in the case of urban areas but bear no such share of expenses on projects in rural areas. Sir, this is not so. We have arrangements to meet each and every contingency. We are prepared to make both capital and loan grants to urban and rural areas. Only in case of rural areas sums to be spent on capital projects are placed at the disposal of district boards and district magistrates to whom application should be made.

With regard to water-supply in urban areas as the schemes are complicated, they have got to be examined by the Sanitary Engineer and it is only for exercising proper control over the projects that the grant is made individually to the municipalities by the Government.

Sir, I appreciate the remarks made by another hon'ble member that under the present system a considerable delay occurs in carrying on correspondence between the local bodies and the Government. The matter is being carefully considered by the Government and I hope we shall soon be in a position to remove this grievance.

Sir, we have also made considerable progress in the Public Health Department. Our scheme of providing every thana in Bengal—some 600 in number—with a sanitary unit in charge of a specially trained Sanitary Inspector will be complete this year and for this we have provided a sum of Rs. 12,00,000. Our efforts to combat malaria, kala-azar, small-pox and cholera have met with very gratifying results and a perusal of our Public Health report will, I am sure, gladden the heart of the greatest pessimist among us. Sir, it gives me much pleasure to announce publicly that we have almost succeeded in bringing the kala-azar menace under control and in a few years' time there will be no trace of it left in Bengal. Here I ought to correct Mr. P. N. Guha who remarked that our allotment towards measures for the prevention of

malaria was merely rupees one lakh, but I say, Sir, it is about Rs. 2½ lakhs. (Mr. P. N. GUHA: A very magnificent sum, indeed).

Sir, I cannot overlook the hardy annual of my sturdy friend, Mr. Campbell Forrester. It is a pity that it should remain an annual event for ever. I wish my friend could remain wide awake a little longer instead of getting up from his deep slumber once a year on this fateful occasion, to lie down again for his year-long sleep the next moment. Government alone cannot do much for the leper colony at Salboni. They require the help and co-operation of public spirited and energetic men like Mr. Campbell Forrester and Dr. Muir to give a start to the Institute and keep it going. (Mr. J. CAMPBELL FORRESTER: But Government must give the lead).

There is only one more point to which I would like to refer before I resume my seat. Of all persons it was left to Mr. Hasan Ali of Dinajpur to condemn the Ministers. In his opinion it is a sheer waste of money to have Ministers in the Government. Sir, the administration, in his opinion, would go on quite as efficiently even if we had no Ministers. Mr. Hassan Ali of Dinajpur is evidently a great political thinker and must be a man of great political knowledge to be in a position to make such sweeping observations. Does Mr. Hassan Ali mean to say that the administration of this great province is to be carried on by an irremovable executive with this Council as an advisory body?

5 p.m.

It may suit the limitations of members like Mr. Hassan Ali to sit here as members of a glorified debating club with no responsibilities attached to them or to their utterances. But, Sir, I cannot allow these assertions, even coming as they do from members like Mr. Hassan Ali of Dinajpur, to go unchallenged. To a man with the most rudimentary knowledge of politics it must be as clear as day light that a Council consisting of about 100 elected Indian members out of a total of 140 is a really powerful body, only if it does exercise its power properly. And, Sir, that power can only be effectively exercised through an executive which is removable by and responsible to the members of the Council. Sir, we the Ministers here depend on the members of this Council for our very existence; they are our masters; we carry out their mandate or clear out. Sir, we are the weapons in the hands of the people to fight the cause of our motherland; through us, Sir, our motherland will proclaim to the world that we are fit for self-government. Sir, this is not the occasion to defend the present Ministry, nor do I desire to say anything regarding the veiled onslaught on the Ministers by Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, except that if he could tolerate three Ministers in 1921-23, he was expected to have given more cogent reasons now for the abolition of the third Minister.

Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: On a point of order, Sir, may I point out by way of personal explanation that I never suggested that the third Minister should go? I only wanted to know on what principle the third Minister was appointed when Bengal could carry on well with two.

The Hon'ble KUMAR SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: However that may be, Sir, I do defend the institution of Ministers. The people of Bengal have no right even to dream of independence or demand dominion status or ask for further reforms if they cannot send 100 such members to the Council from whom only 3 cannot be chosen to sit in the Government and hold their own against the best intellects on the reserved side and vindicate the honour of their motherland as capable administrators. I refuse to admit that we, the people of Bengal are so bankrupt in intellect or capacity. Sir, choose your best men for the post and help them and co-operate with them to carry on the people's banner high in the executive side of the Government; if they fail, give them the order of the boot at once. But, Sir, Mr. Hasan Ali of Dinajpur has no right to say that the Ministers have no use in the Government of Bengal.

Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: Mr. President, while appreciating the difficulties the Hon'ble the Finance Member had to encounter to balance his budget, I must confess that his performance will not satisfy this Council as it has not, I am sure, satisfied him. His task reminds one of the saying of the Steward of Molier's miser who said that it is not difficult to provide a good dinner with plenty of money, the really good cook is he who can set out a banquet with no money at all. Bengal is living on its balance and eating up with a rapidity that must cause alarm.

Ever since the introduction of the Reforms one of the charges levelled against them has been that the transferred departments do not get their adequate share from the revenues. That the Finance Member is aware of it is evident from the following remarks made by him in his speech introducing the budget: "Government have endeavoured, as far as possible within the resources at their disposal, to make a fair distribution throughout the various departments of the administration." But in spite of his endeavours in this direction an examination of the budget goes to show that to the transferred departments have been allotted considerably less than half, in fact about a third part of the total expenditure incurred. We do not know yet what changes the recommendations of the Statutory Commission will ultimately introduce in the administration; but I hope and trust the nation-building departments will have sufficient funds to carry out schems of importance and utility.

In this connection, although I am thankful to the Hon'ble Kumar Saheb for his assurance, I would like to point out that the provisions for rural water-supply, medical relief and the improvement of cattle are inadequate. The claims of the Department of Industries demands greater attention. The other day I was reading the report of the Director of Industries, Bihar and Orissa for 1928-29, and I found that the problems confronting the following cottage industries were tackled during the year and the artisans engaged therein received the help of the department—(1) Cotton weaving; (2) Sericulture; (3) Eri-rearing and spinning; (4) Silking, reeling, twisting and weaving; (5) Wool dyeing and weaving; (6) Dyeing of cotton, wool and silk; (7) Calico printing; (8) Knitting; (10) Carpet and durry manufacture. (10) Tape and newar weaving; (11) Spinning of fibre and rope twisting; (12) Toy-making; (13) Manufacture of simple appliances for cottage industries and art furniture. Besides these experiments on some art crafts such as ivory-carving, lamp-shade manufacture, fretwork, paper flowers, painting on wood, etc., have also been initiated. We are aware that without proper marketing facilities no industry can prosper. In their reports the members of the Industrial Commission remarked: "Not a little of the industrial success of modern Japan is due to the attention that has been paid not only to the education and technical training of cottage workers, but to the building up of business organisations which take over the products of their industry and dispose of them all over the world." This sound pronouncement has not been lost on the Department in Bihar and Orissa, and its commercial reports have now assumed the figure of 1¾ lakhs worth of goods sold during a year. Its Agent in London predicts that, given certain facilities, the sales would easily mount up to £10,000 per annum. I would like to see the same results followed from the work of our Department of Industries.

The sands of the career of this Council are fast running out and I would not discuss in detail other heads as new conditions are likely to prevail next year. But I cannot close my remarks without expressing my disappointment at the Government having neglected the claims of Murshidabad in the matter of having a medical school. I am glad the work of construction of the medical schools at Jalpaiguri, Chittagong and Barisal is proceeding. But though Murshidabad needs a school and the people of the district have been crying themselves hoarse over it, nothing has been done to provide it with a school. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge to help us in the matter and I hope I do not appeal in vain.

Mr. PROSANNA DEB RAIKAT: Mr. President, Sir, it has been the custom on the part of the members of this House to take part in the general discussion of the budget held every year at the time of the presentation of the budget by the Hon'ble Member in charge. In obedience to that custom I rise to-day to speak something about the

budget estimates of the coming year and pass certain general remarks over some of its most important features though I fully know that they will be turned to deaf ears and will be of no avail to the authorities concerned.

Firstly, it appears to me that the budget estimate for the year 1930-31, shows no improvement and is in no way better than those of the previous years. It also does not reveal any change of financial policy on the part of the Government. On the other hand it seems to me that the Government is treading the same old extravagant path which led them to many financial difficulties and on to the verge of bankruptcy as in former years. But the Government it appears refuse to learn by past years' experience and intend to stick to their old ways in spite of repeated public protest here or outside this House. The people of this province were given large promises and they were given to understand that there would be millenium and prosperity and affluence everywhere as soon as the present Reforms would be introduced. But what has been the experience of the people for the last ten years? I think they are not a bit better off than what they were before the Reforms. The Reforms do not seem to have brought any benefit. But on the contrary they have been burdened with fresh taxation.

Secondly, from a cursory glance at the estimates made for the year 1930-31, it appears that the present budget is a deficit budget and is disappointing. The expenditure seems to exceed the receipts though by clever manipulation of figures, the closing balance has been shown to be Rs. 1,17,00,000. This has been arrived at by showing mere transference of money from this fund to that. Really speaking actual receipts of the coming year have been shown to fall short of all outgoings and disbursements. Even this seems to have been admitted by the Hon'ble Member himself. Now my question is, Sir, can't this state of things be avoided? To my mind it seems that the Government by honest economy and by a little change of policy can bring back the financial position of the province on a sound basis. Let them cut their top-heavy expenses for maintaining unnecessary departments. I think the Government will be able to avoid this deficit in their budget. The whole budget estimate for the coming year has been a disappointing affair and unless the fundamental policy of the Government and their angle of vision is changed, mere patch-work here and there will not cure the original evils.

These are some of the general remarks which at once strike a casual reader of this year's budget. But if we examine certain particular instances, it will appear how unjustly the pressing demands of the province have been met.

Take for instance agriculture. Out of Rs. 13¼ crores of total revenue, only Rs. 27 lakhs have been provided for agriculture. But

the major portion of this amount also has been set apart for the salaries and maintenance of the office of big officers of this department. Very little has been provided for real improvement of agriculture though Bengal is mainly an agricultural country.

Then, as regards public health and industries, the amounts provided are mere drops in the vast ocean and are expected to cover only a fraction of the whole population. It is a palpable fact that the people of this province are very poor and on account of their poverty they are unable to combat the evils of epidemics that break out every year in virulent form and take away thousands of lives of these people and ultimately they become a prey to these epidemics without any help. But what of that, the Government won't pay any heed to this lamentable state of things. They are busy in providing sufficient funds to other unnecessary heads.

The same remarks may be passed with regard to provisions made for primary education. This subject has also been neglected in the coming year's budget though times without number it has been pressed again and again that mass education is the main and essential foundation of a nation's life. There cannot be any uplift of any people without general mass education.

Instances of this kind of insufficient provisions for most of the nation-building departments in the present budget are many and various and may be pointed out. But I now desist from going into details as these will be dealt with fully in due time. My only grievance is that the Government is following a misguided policy and is beating about the bush instead of striking at the root of the things.

With these few remarks I resume my seat to make room for other worthy members who will be able to do full justice to the cause of the province.

In conclusion I beg to fully endorse the view taken by Mr. J. N. Gupta. The Government should make serious attempt to modify the Meston award as far as possible and should impress upon the Government of India the desirability of relieving the financial difficulties of Bengal by substantial contributions from the Central Revenue.

In this connection I cannot but refer to unemployment problem, which vitally affects the welfare and interests of the people of this province, and which seems to be the ultimate cause of discontent amongst the middle class people of Bengal. Has the Government made any honest attempt in the present budget to tackle this most important and all engrossing question? In all civilised and free countries this unemployment problem is given the most serious consideration by the authorities. But here in Bengal this is altogether neglected. Had

the Government been able to solve this problem satisfactorily then much of their labour in suppressing discontent in the country would have been saved.

5-15 p.m.

Dr. Sir NILRATAN SARKAR: Sir, it is with a feeling of great disappointment that I rise to say a few words regarding the allotment for the University of Calcutta, viz., the sum of Rs. 3 lakhs for next year. Sir, during the last 5 years the teaching departments of the Calcutta University in the Post-Graduate Departments are being run under an arrangement made with the Government for a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs. The original idea was to have an allotment of Rs. 3 lakhs for 5 years but eventually it was settled that there should be a grant of Rs. 2,43,000 a year and a contingent grant of Rs. 57,000 out of any surplus that may be made in the Fee Department and also in the Law College Department. These five years have expired. In the meantime the commitments of the University have increased an account of promotions and provident fund contributions, and if we compare the deficit that we had 5 years ago with what we have to-day we find a difference of about Rs. 1½ lakhs. At present, the deficit is Rs. 4,25,000. Before the expiry of 5 years the University approached the Government with the request to make a final or rather a permanent arrangement with the University regarding grants. This was in accordance with a promise which we obtained from Mr. Lindsay in his letter dated the 10th March, 1920, in which he said that at the end of that period of 5 years the matter would come under revision and with the experience of 5 years it should be possible to arrive at a more accurate and definite figure of the total grant which the University should receive from Government. When we approached the Government we expected that some sort of arrangement would be made with us to solve the difficulty. But five months elapsed before we received another communication—the original communication was made on the 12th June—on the 24th July. In the reply that we received it was stated that there was no appreciable increase from fees, although the University had been trying their best to increase the fee income during the last 10 years though not with much result but incurring great unpopularity; but even at the risk of that the University did not flinch from doing that. At present, however, the University find it impossible to raise the fee income. Then, Sir, we received another communication on the 23rd December, in which it was stated that as the University did not supply all the necessary information to Government, no arrangements could be made. The thing is that these commitments and requirements have not been specified, nor did they relate to the commitments and requirements which had been found in 1926, to justify the five years' recurring grant of Rs. 2,43,000 per annum then made by Government, and the

whole of that letter was written of course in that idea. In another place, it was stated that Government felt that they would not accept an increase of that magnitude even for one year without fuller information. Now, I find that while discussing the Dacca University Bill, Sir Abdur Rahim laid down very different principles regarding the grant to that University. In one place, he said that the question was a very simple one and was only a question of principle. Did they want the Dacca University to be a self-governing institution entitled to manage its own affairs without any outside interference either from the Council or the Government? In another place, he said: "With this end, we always recommend and shall continue to recommend that so far as possible the annual treasury grant shall be given as block grant-in-aid of the University." Then, in another place he said that he might inform the House that they would be prepared to introduce a similar Bill for the Calcutta University, and he added that in view of that assurance it was not open to any member of the House to have any misgivings on that point. We had been entertaining high hopes that at the end of 5 years we should have a sort of permanent financial arrangement by a block grant from the Government. Instead of that we are now requested to furnish details of our schemes and expenditure, and we are told to wait till Government examine our schemes and commitments and receipts, and if these are found to be satisfactory, then we may expect some grant. Be that as it may, the question is what we are to do now.

According to budget herewith we are to get Rs. 3,57,000. Of this sum Rs. 1,53,000 are grants in connection with the Post-Graduate Department. It is a grant made by the Government of India long ago and it is simply carried over to the budget every year. If we are to follow the prevailing practice, Government may get Rs. 67,000 from our own savings: otherwise they may pay part or whole of it. But I may say that a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs will not save us from the present difficulty, which is due to the fact that our commitments have increased and there is now a clear deficit of Rs. 4,25,000 and therefore we ask altogether for Rs. 5,25,000. The University have, in the meantime, appointed a reorganisation committee which is of course examining the whole situation. Its labours are not yet over and its report will not be out before another two or three months, when it will be too late for the budget. In the meantime, we do not know what we are to do and how we are to manage the Post-Graduate Department. That is the difficulty I would place before the House and the Hon'ble Minister for considering a way out of it.

I would like to say a few words with regard to agricultural education. I am really disappointed to find that in Bengal which is probably the most fertile place on the face of the world, there is no provision for the teaching of agriculture. In other provinces of India they

have got schools of agriculture connected with the University. Everybody knows what the world is doing for the improvement of agriculture. Here, on the other hand, in Bengal although large endowments have been made and accepted by the authorities, the money has been allowed to remain idle on the plea that supplementary grants could not be spared by Government. Now this is really a regrettable state of things. In the budget portion devoted to agriculture we find everything for veterinary, for co-operative department and so on; but as regards agriculture proper it is a slender figure and perhaps it is meant for the maintenance of one or two farms and research institutes and that sort of thing. What is really wanted is a great movement for the teaching of agriculture in this country. We hear of the bread question. But in India—and particularly in Bengal—I am perfectly convinced that nobody will starve who knows scientific agriculture, and it is not a difficult or a highly scientific thing to have a knowledge of agriculture; and it might easily be imparted to under-graduates through schools and colleges in Bengal and within a short time many of our young men would improve with self-help, and earn their livelihood to their great credit and also to the glory of their motherland.

5-30 p.m.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I find that there are still many members anxious to speak. It is much to be regretted that the House threw away practically an hour yesterday. I feel inclined to sit up to 6 o'clock if it causes no inconvenience to Moslem members on account of the Ramzan.

(A Moslem member objected to sitting up to 6 o'clock.)

Mr. PRESIDENT: I think we might carry on for another quarter of an hour.

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I am very glad that the last speaker, Sir Nilratan Sarkar, raised the question of the grant to the Calcutta University. There is an impression amongst some of the members of the Calcutta University that Government is trying to avoid their responsibility with regard to the Calcutta University, but I can assure the House that it is not so. The point at issue between the Calcutta University and the Government is simply this: In 1926, Government agreed to make a grant of Rs. 2,43,000 for five years and also agreed to increase the grant further if more money was required for meeting obligations entailed in the scheme of 1926. That is to say Government was prepared to reconsider the whole question at the end of 5 years. The Calcutta University have now come forward with a demand for Rs. 5 lakhs without submitting any reason as to how they have come to that figure, as to what these schemes are and what their commitments are. I submit, Sir, I would not be discharging my

duty to this House if I were to agree to the demand made by the Calcutta University without examining it. Supposing to-day I agreed to hand over to the Calcutta University Rs. 5 lakhs, what is there to prevent them from coming forward after 2 years and saying: "Oh, we cannot manage with this amount, please give us another Rs. 2 lakhs." And again after 3 years, they may want another Rs. 3 lakhs.

Sir Nilratan Sarkar has said that Sir Abdur Rahim while speaking about the Dacca University grant said that he wanted to make it financially independent. That is quite true. Before the statutory grant was made to the Dacca University, Government went fully into the question of funds that would be required for running the University and after having decided what the figure would be, proposed the statutory grant and it was considered only fair that the Dacca University should get a certain amount of money annually without having to wait for the vote of the Council. Similarly, before Government agree to make the grant to the Calcutta University a statutory one, I think it is only fair that the Calcutta University should put up their schemes and their commitments before Government so that Government may know what is the total liability they would have to undertake and they may also know whether the schemes were absolutely necessary and beneficial in view of the present financial position of the country. The question is a simple one. Government do not refuse to give a grant to the Calcutta University, but all that the Government want is that the Calcutta University should come forward with reasons in support of their demands.

Sir Nilratan Sarkar also said something about agricultural education. I would like to inform the House that the Education Department have got a scheme actually now in operation, under which 15 teachers are being trained for 2 years at the Dacca Agricultural Farm. Sixty schools have already come in under that scheme and have agreed either to provide land for a farm or a small garden where agricultural training can be imparted to boys. This scheme is, I may mention, for all the high schools. We expect that at the end of 4 years, 60 teachers will be able to take up this work in various schools. As soon as these teachers are trained and schools come forward with the required land, agricultural training will be imparted to the boys.

Maulvi ASHRAFUDDIN CHAUDHURI: Sir, it is admittedly a deficit budget that the Hon'ble Mr. Marr has presented before this House. Such is the deplorable state of finance that during the course of his speech he is compelled to make the confession before the House that the continuing revenue deficit is the most important aspect of the whole budget. This year a deficit of about Rs. 80 lakhs is to be made up from the closing balance. In the next year revenue is expected, as the Hon'ble Mr. Marr points out, to be nearly Rs. 43 lakhs less than the current year's revised estimate.

Police as usual has taken the lion's share in the budget. Nothing is too great to provide for this heaven born service all comforts even at the cost of lives and properties of His Majesty's subjects. There is absolutely no dearth of money for the construction of quarters for married officers in the Lalbazar Police compound, construction of a new police hospital at Jessore and matters like these. No question of deficit budget arises when the police is concerned. But when thousands of our poor countrymen are starving and falling an easy prey to various kinds of diseases for want of bare sustenance and loin cloth even to cover their shame, Government would at once declare that the State purse is empty and they are not in a position to help the famished people who cry for succour. Although famine has been prevailing in its acute form in some parts of the Brahmanbaria and Sadar subdivisions of the Tippera district and also in some other parts of the province, specially in parts of the Mymensingh district adjacent to Tippera, I find to my surprise that only a paltry sum of Rs. 66,000 has been provided for the gratuitous relief in the current year, whereas a far more larger sum would hardly meet the demand of the hour. I am definitely informed from those who are actually in the field doing relief work and from other reliable sources that the condition of the people in affected areas is growing worse and worse day by day and relief is essential to protect them from utter ruin at least for another three months. To my amazement what do I find in the current year's estimate of grants for advances to the cultivators? A grand sum of Rs. 50,000 only to relieve the distress of this vast suffering humanity. I have come to learn from unimpeachable sources that in certain areas such as Chatalpar union within police-station Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria subdivision, the distressed people are somehow or other living on the root of a kind of aquatic plant called *Kui* the eating of which causes vomitting tendency and dyspepsia. But even this too is not available now. The areas have worn the appearance of deserts without any vegetation. And over and above this the people of these areas are in rags hardly sufficient to cover their shame. The dismal picture that I have drawn above is heart-rending and is sure to melt even the stone-hearted men but the Government is not to be daunted or moved by this. Recently a Government officer took there 10 dhotis for distribution; each dhoti was torn into 3 or 4 pieces and then distributed. The kindness the Government has shown to their starving and almost naked people is undoubtedly unparalleled in the history of all civilised Governments. In answer to my question yesterday the Hon'ble Member in charge of Revenue was pleased to state that in Brahmanbaria subdivision alone the area affected was 306 square miles and the persons more or less affected was 2,50,000. Besides this area there are other parts of the province also where the attention of the Government is called for. Now may I ask the Hon'ble Member with all seriousness that I can command whether provisions for the relief of this suffering

humanity has been adequate in the past or is likely to mitigate even a portion of their sufferings in future? Sir, the condition of the people of certain areas within Tippera district that I have described above is not, I am told by the Member in charge of Revenue, sufficient to declare it as a famine-stricken one. I fail to understand what other conditions are necessary to make such areas declared as famine-stricken. I pause for reply. Sir, I venture to state that the protection of the life and property of its subjects by the State in these circumstances are the first charge upon the Government and if the State fails to discharge its obligation in a vital matter like this it forfeits all its claims as a sovereign State. Sir, the appalling havoc that famine has wrought upon some parts of the Presidency is more to be imagined than described. It has affected practically all sections of the people including Government. The dullness of trade and industry can be attributed to this to some extent. Money market is growing tighter every day. All these are partially the effect of famine and other causes.

In spite of a heavy deficit budget and general financial stringency the Hon'ble Finance Member has made a provision for police charges to be about Rs. 5 lakhs above this year's revised estimate, yet he could not see his way to make better provision for the protection and safety of the children of the soil who are on the verge of ruin and destruction. Sir, is this statesmanship? Is this humanity?

When there is a heavy deficit budget I wonder why under the general administration head a big sum of Rs. 5½ lakhs more than the revised budget has been provided for this year. The transferred subjects could easily be administered by the Members of the Executive Council of His Excellency with profit to the Government as well as to the people. An enormous sum would have been saved and the deficit would have been reduced to some extent.

Sir, I am a new member of this Council and had no experience of the past to appreciate fully the budget estimate that has been presented before us this year and do that justice to the importance of the subject which it may deserve. Unfortunately I received my copy of the budget estimate only yesterday and I have had hardly any time to go through the subject carefully so as to express my views on the budget supported by comparative figures of the previous years and other provinces. Sir, may I suggest to the Hon'ble Finance Member that the copy of the budget be circulated to the members at least two weeks earlier than the date fixed for budget discussion?

I must sincerely congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Marr for making a statement to the effect that the deficit is in part due to the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act. It is the provision for salami and the right of pre-emption granted to landholders that have stood in the way of all transactions relating to land and how this is extremely hard to all agricultural people can be well imagined. In the revenue account

the receipts have fallen by over Rs. 18 lakhs while stamps and registration are responsible for a decline of Rs. 27 lakhs. This figure will conclusively speak for itself and the Finance Member has himself made out a strong case in favour of the amendment of the recently amended Bengal Tenancy Act, and I hope Government will not be slow to bring this matter before the legislature so that the hardship of the agriculturists may be put an end to and the deficit in the budget may also be reduced.

The Finance Member looks forward to the Government of India for financial relief. He has expressed his confident hope that the recommendations of the Simon Commission would be in the direction of giving much financial relief to Bengal. Perhaps in his opinion there is no other alternative. He has neither any suggestion nor any scheme to combat the deficit budget of future years. I, for myself, believe that if after a close review of the financial position of the Government the expenses are curtailed whenever possible and if the expected relief from the Central Government be received, there would be much surplus that may be profitably utilised in the nation-building departments of Government.

(At this stage it being quarter to six the member had to resume his seat.)

Adjournment.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order. The Council stands adjourned till 3 p.m., on Monday, the 17th March, 1930, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

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